



Album Review: Caravan of Thieves~ The Funhouse

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[Welcome to The Funhouse!](#)

Mister M celebrates Halloween early with The Funhouse by Caravan of Thieves!

By Mister M Oct 16 2012 Category: [Media](#), [Music](#)



[Caravan of Thieves](#) have perhaps made the world's least frightening Halloween album, and that's awesome. It's about as scary as an eight year old dressed up as a ghost covered with a bed sheet with Converse hi-tops sticking out below. But you know what? That's the spirit of Halloween, not some malevolent creep with a [devilock](#) putting razor blades in apples. What are the tricks without the treats?

You would think that with a title like *The Funhouse* that you would get distorted mirrors, painted faces and Danny Elfman oompah music. There's waltz time, but no [Wurlitzer organs](#). It's a very acoustic affair, with resonator guitars, ukuleles and upright bass. There's death, cannibalism and haunting, but it's jaunty and (dare I say) plucky. These are mature themes, but mature like literature not like an [NC-17 fright fest](#).

A song like "Live Forever" might conjure images of vampires and Faustian bargains for the soul. It mentions an "incantation to cure me of my cancellation." It turns away from the grim reaper. As a visual cue, it's more Grant Wood's [American Gothic](#) than [sullen teen in guyliner](#). "Raise the Dead" cites "Mozart, Joan of Arc and all of their friends." It even looks forward to the return of Emily Dickinson, to "go ahead and tell her her poems really lived on." These are not flesh-eating zombies.

"Eat You" broaches cannibalism, but only in a snugglebunny you're-so-cute-I-could-eat-you-up way. It begins "You're my chocolate covered strawberry" and continues with the metaphor. "I'm gonna eat'cha/Cook and defeat'cha/I'm gonna breathe you in my lungs and make you mine." Nom nom nom!

"Haunt Me" is the slow song. It's not the first song to address love haunting your thoughts. "Monster" wanders down the the Frankenbasement where "love made a monster out of me."

The mention of "I'm addicted to you candy" and "syrup circling through my veins" brings to mind a Velvet Underground/Jesus and Mary Chain terror ride down the edge of a needle. "Now I'm strung out/And I sure could use

a hand out.” Nope, “Candy” is about running out of lollipops, butterscotch and caramel.” Time to find out which house leaves the fun-size candy bars unattended in a bowl on the front porch!

The album wraps up with “Shim Sham” and “The Funhouse Exit.” “Shim Sham” is a studio version, reprised from their live album [Mischief Night](#). I wouldn’t mind a hoochie coochie dance to this one. “The Funhouse Exit” is appropriately cartoony with [Stalling-eque changes](#) and junkstore percussion.

Despite the monsters and haunting, this is definitely a funhouse, not a haunted one. The songs bounce and you get a palpable sense of how much Caravan of Thieves enjoys playing during the album. The sense of play permeates, down to the interaction of Fuzz and Carrie’s harmonies. A haunted house jumps out and scares you. A funhouse invites you to the ride. And maybe blows your skirt up!

The Funhouse is available through the [caravanofthieves.com webstore](#).

Link:

<http://www.sepiachord.com/index/?p=4459>