



KATORGA WORKS

MERCHANDISE

(STRANGE SONGS) IN THE DARK

Loss
I Locked The Door
Foolish (Her Song)
I Get Lost
Worthless Apology
What Was Left Behind
In The Dark

CATALOG #: JAGSPECT19
RELEASE DATE: MARCH 31, 2015
FORMAT: CD/LP/DIGITAL
CD BOX LOT: 30
LP BOX LOT: 25
GENRE: ALTERNATIVE/EXPERIMENTAL
KEY MARKETS: TAMPA, NEW YORK,
WASHINGTON DC, CHICAGO, PHILADELPHIA,
LOS ANGELES, SEATTLE, ATLANTA

VINYL NOT RETURNABLE

CD UPC: 656605769325



LP UPC: 656605769318



DIGITAL UPC: 656605769363



Back in print and readily available (for perhaps the first time), we have Merchandise's debut LP *(Strange Songs) In The Dark*. The album, recorded in early 2010, marks a decisive break from the band's straightforward early post-punk EP's, moving instead toward the more experimental studio-based pop constructions that would be further explored in the subsequent *Children of Desire* and *Totale Nite* albums. *(Strange Songs)* was recorded by the core duo of Carson Cox and David Vassalotti. Despite the lo-fi nature of this home recording, there are tons of hooks to be found amidst the haze (notably "I Locked the Door" and "Worthless Apology"). Occasionally veering into abstractions, the album as a whole is a piece that warrants listening as such. It's a sad bastard of a record, but one with plenty of range and ideas. Not rehash but reimagination. Many moments on *(Strange Songs)* (especially the moody "Foolish" and "In The Dark") foreshadow Merchandise's eventual signing to the 4AD label. Fans of the band's later albums will find much to enjoy on this early effort.

[[Originally a split release between DIY punk labels Katorga Works and Drugged Conscience Records.]]

SELLING POINTS

1. Merchandise's 4th proper album was released by 4AD in 2014 to critical praise from the likes of Pitchfork, NME, and Spin.
2. Now the band's 2010 debut - *(Strange Songs) In The Dark* - is back in print and widely available for the first time.



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