

= In the Land of Grey and Pink =

In the Land of Grey and Pink is the third album by English progressive rock band Caravan , released in April 1971 on Deram Records . It was produced by David Hitchcock and was the last album to feature the original lineup of Richard Coughlan , Pye Hastings , Richard Sinclair and David Sinclair until 1982 's Back to Front .

The album was written and recorded during late 1970 and early 1971 , and featured more material from Richard Sinclair . Hastings , who had been the main songwriter on the previous two releases , contributed only one track . Instrumentally , the music is dominated by David Sinclair 's keyboard solos , and side two is taken up by a 22 @-@ minute suite of songs , " Nine Feet Underground " . The cover features a Tolkien @-@ influenced painting .

The album was critically well received but was not a chart success , which led to frustration within the band and David Sinclair 's departure . Nevertheless , it has remained in print and sold steadily , and been recommended by critics as a good introduction to the Canterbury Scene genre . The band look back favourably on the album and several of its tracks have remained fixtures in Caravan 's live repertoire . It has been reissued several times , including a comprehensive 40th anniversary remix package by British musician and producer Steven Wilson in 2011 .

= = Background and recording = =

Though Caravan had yet to achieve strong commercial success in 1970 , they had started to build a live following , including an appearance at the Kralingen Pop Festival in the Netherlands to an audience of 250 @,@ 000 and the 10th Plumpton Festival . In between touring , the group had written several new pieces that they wanted to record . Having had problems self @-@ producing the previous album , If I Could Do It All Over Again , I 'd Do It All Over You , the group decided to collaborate with producer David Hitchcock . Hitchcock had become a fan of the band and had been a key figure in getting them signed to Decca Records . He had progressed from the label 's art department to production and was keen to work on the album . The group had been apprehensive about Hitchcock working on If I Could Do It All Over Again ... but after discovering his enthusiasm and creative ideas , decided it would be a good idea to enrol him as producer .

Recording began in September 1970 at Decca Studios , West Hampstead , London . Guitarist Pye Hastings had written the bulk of material for earlier albums , which led to a backlog of songs composed by the rest of the group ; consequently he only offered a single song , " Love To Love You (And Pigs Might Fly) " . Bassist Richard Sinclair had written " Golf Girl " , a song about his girlfriend and future wife . Both songs were written in a straightforward pop style , in contrast to some longer pieces on the album . Keyboardist David Sinclair had composed a number of different musical segments that he wanted to link together to a suite of songs . The group helped with the arranging and joining of sections , resulting in a 22 @-@ minute piece , " Nine Feet Underground " . The song was recorded in five separate sections and edited together by Hitchcock and engineer Dave Grinsted . Most of the work is instrumental , aside from two sections with lyrics . David Sinclair played most of the solos on the track , and indeed the entire album , on either fuzztone organ or piano .

Most of the album aside from " Nine Feet Underground " was recorded in December at Air Studios in Oxford Street . " Glow Girl " had been tried at Decca Studios but was re @-@ recorded with different lyrics as " Golf Girl " , which featured flute and trombone parts . " Winter Wine " had been recorded in September as a rough instrumental with wordless vocals , but was given a second attempt at Air Studios , by which time it had acquired lyrics about dreams and fairy tales . The final version features a folk influenced acoustic guitar introduction and included an improvised organ section in the middle . The last track to be recorded was the title track , which featured the sound of Richard Sinclair blowing bubbles . The album was mixed at Decca in January 1971 .

During the sessions at Air Studios , the band recorded a rough version of " Aristocracy " , but it was shelved and re @-@ recorded the following year for the next album , Waterloo Lily . The title was suggested by Richard Sinclair ; the " land of grey and pink " refers to the band 's home county of

Kent . He came up with the phrase after looking at the sky at sunset during rehearsals at Graveney early in the band 's career .

= = Release and reception = =

The album was released on 8 April 1971 and featured a Tolkien influenced cover , drawn by Anne Marie Anderson . It did not chart in the UK , but sold steadily throughout the 1970s and remaining in print , with " Nine Feet Underground " becoming a popular track on late @-@ night FM radio . The group became frustrated with their lack of commercial success , which they blamed on Decca 's lack of promotion . In August 1971 , David Sinclair accepted an offer to join former Soft Machine drummer and vocalist Robert Wyatt in a new band , Matching Mole .

The album was reissued in 2001 on CD with bonus tracks , including early takes of " Winter Wine " and " Golf Girl " at Decca Studios . A new edition of the album , remixed in both stereo and 5 @.@ 1 surround sound by British musician and producer Steven Wilson was released on two CDs and a DVD to coincide with its 40th anniversary in 2011 . As well as the original album , the reissue included outtakes , BBC Radio sessions , and a television performance on the German music show Beat @-@ Club . The album was also available in a limited edition of 500 copies on 180g vinyl , remastered by Pascal Byrne . It was reissued on vinyl in Canada in September 2014 . Extended remixes of " Golf Girl " and " Love To Love You " were included in the 2000 anthology , Where But For Caravan Would I ? .

Rolling Stone listed the album as No. 34 on their list of 50 Greatest Prog Rock Albums of All Time , saying it evoked " a Middle Earth sunset , with the music wavering between medieval folk melodies and jazz @-@ savvy musos " . According to AllMusic reviewer Dave Thompson , the album is " one of the most beloved , and eccentric prog albums of them all " and " probably Caravan 's finest hour " . He also said that " Nine Feet Underground " was " the most for the dynamic chemistry that blended the band together " and that " Golf Girl " " emerges as the kind of song that remains stuck in your head for days after you hear it , no matter how many more records you play immediately after " . Progressive rock author Stephen Lambe has said that " Nine Feet Underground " is " not just the archetypal Caravan piece but a symbol of a whole movement . " Marco Rossi , writing in Record Collector said " Canterbury Scene initiates are strongly advised to start here . " In the Q and Mojo Classic Special Edition Pink Floyd & The Story of Prog Rock , the album came No. 19 in its list of " 40 Cosmic Rock Albums " . Mojo also said In the Land of Grey and Pink was " the quintessential Canterbury album " .

The band look favourably on the album . Hastings later said the group " began to peak in many ways " and praised in particular David Sinclair 's playing and Hitchcock 's production skills . Caravan continue to perform songs from In The Land of Grey and Pink in their live repertoire , particularly " Nine Feet Underground " and " Golf Girl " .

= = Track listing = =

All songs by Richard Coughlan , Pye Hastings , Dave Sinclair and Richard Sinclair (except " Aristocracy " , by Coughlan , Hastings and Richard Sinclair) .

Side One

Side Two

= = Personnel = =

Caravan

Richard Sinclair ? bass guitar , acoustic guitar , vocals

Pye Hastings ? electric guitars , acoustic guitar , vocals

David Sinclair ? organ , piano , Mellotron , harmony vocals

Richard Coughlan ? drums and percussion

Additional personnel

Jimmy Hastings ? flute , tenor sax , piccolo

Dave Grinstead ? cannon , bell and wind

John Beecham - trombone on " Golf Girl "

Production

David Hitchcock ? production

Dave Grinstead ? engineering

John Punter ? engineering

Derek Varnals ? engineering

Julian Hastings ? production for bonus material on 2001 CD reissue .

= = Release information = =

= = Cover versions = =

" Golf Girl " was covered by Nigel Planer (in his guise as hippy Neil from The Young Ones) on his album Neil 's Heavy Concept Album , and featured a cameo from Dawn French as a policewoman . Annie Whitehead played the song 's trombone part as arranged on In the Land of Grey and Pink and longtime Caravan collaborator Jimmy Hastings played on the album . The song was also covered by German band M. walking on the water .