

## Alert Status Red

Matthew Good

In the wilderness uncountable voices  
earplugs for the birds and the animals  
and blinders for your beast of burden, the will for learning  
these books were made for burning  
in the wilderness  
beneath the ancient sand lies crushed and tanned those sapphire  
girls  
may we never forget you  
Alert status red  
but the sun comes up instead  
In the wilderness the only place to find freedom is in the dict  
ionary  
under "F"  
men in holes, men in caves, men in chains I ask but the store c  
lerk needn't check  
man I forget which came first  
the bad idea or me befallen by it?  
not giving a shit may we never forget you  
Alert status red  
but the sun comes up instead  
In the wilderness  
senile live the zealous  
lost to the treasures that compel us  
muted down like patriots amiss  
you know I'm jealous of how you can just turn them off  
those bad ideas that feel so soft  
may they never forget you  
Alert status red  
but the sun comes up instead