

YOU LIVE

YOU LEARN

YOU BURN

MATT BANKERT

## ***ROCK HARD***

My ideas will crush you, a cube won't contain  
All the rock n' roll poetry made in my brain  
I'm dangerous, a boiling pot about to blow  
A guitar cacophony from the stereo

I'm a real tough brother, gonna take out the trash  
I'm a vapor, I'm a spark, I'm a lightning crash  
The man tries to trap me in a paper chain  
But I'm a chainsaw, baby, in confetti rain

My life is maxed-out like a credit card  
And I can't say "No," so you know I gotta rock hard  
Faces charred, no holds barred, rockin' hard

I make detractors recede like a hairline  
I wasn't born yesterday, I'm aged like fine wine  
I'm dirty like a sinner hearing a pastor preach  
I'm born again clean like concentrated bleach

Like a fastball flying down at Camden Yards  
And I can't slow down so you know I gotta rock hard  
Faces charred, no holds barred, rockin' hard

I rebel against the rebels, I'm a rogue black sheep  
Gain what I'll never lose, let go what I can't keep  
Never retire, investing for return  
In the end, you live, you learn, you burn

I'm a runaway train, I'm the wildcard  
And I'll never stop, so you know I gotta rock hard  
Faces charred, no holds barred, rockin' hard

## ***SOMETHING BAD, SOMETHING GOOD***

Do you wonder why everything is wrong?  
It's easy to hate, it's hard to get along  
Diplomacy has failed, war has failed, too  
I have failed, you have failed, it's all that we can do

The poor you will always have with you  
Take the hand of the needy, you're needy, too  
Don't break the bruised reed, bind the broken heart  
A reaction has an action, a finish has a start

I wish somebody could  
Take something bad and use it for something good  
I wish somebody would  
Take something bad, turn it around for something good

Motivations and actions are withstood  
You meant it for evil, the end turned to good  
Evil swells behind an invincible dam  
Subdued by the roar of a lion-like lamb

The last shall be first, when I'm weak I am strong  
A funeral dirge turns into joyous song  
Life comes from death and light comes out of dark  
A wildfire comes from a divine spark

I wish somebody could  
Take something bad and use it for something good  
I wish somebody would  
Take something bad, turn it around for something good

God saw that the wickedness of man was great  
God was sorry He made man, sin would not abate  
Man fell, peace was out of reach up on the shelf  
If you want something done right you gotta do it yourself

I wish somebody could  
Take something bad and use it for something good  
I wish somebody would  
Take something bad, turn it around for something good  
I really think you should  
Take something bad and use it for something good  
In my neighborhood  
Take something bad, turn it around for something good

## ***DON'T BE AN IDIOT***

You lost me back when you said  
There's no way we can communicate  
Your words are pretty, but it's like  
Putting dung on a silver plate

Your disciples once could see, but now are blind  
Are lame and once could walk  
The downside of freedom of speech  
Is that people like you are allowed to talk

You're allergic to logic and you're throwing a fit  
Don't be an idiot  
Like trying to see the bottom of a bottomless pit  
Don't be an idiot

It appears that being rebellious  
Has become in vogue  
At first, a rogue broke away from the herd  
Now there's a herd of rogues

New virtues are being invented  
From California to Cape Cod  
Hold on a second, Nietzsche  
Who died and made you God?

You're allergic to logic and you're throwing a fit  
Don't be an idiot  
Like trying to see the bottom of a bottomless pit  
Don't be an idiot  
You're looking way, way, way, way down  
Your brain is getting bored and I feel sorry for it  
Don't be an idiot

You hit truth but sank like the Titanic  
Below the line of despair  
You still manage to scoff at the lifeboats  
While gasping for air  
Man is something that must be overcome  
But your attempts aren't going well  
Go ahead and follow your heart  
But it's on a broad highway to hell

You're allergic to logic and you're throwing a fit  
Don't be an idiot  
Like trying to see the bottom of a bottomless pit  
Don't be an idiot  
You're looking way, way, way, way down  
Have you tried taking your hands off of your ears for a bit  
Don't be an idiot

## ***DYNAMITE***

You got fire eyes when you look at me  
And I can't look away  
Hypnotized like a moth out of sorts  
Disarmed by your beautiful display

I asked you for your name  
Shrugged when you said, "Trinitrotoluene"  
I knew I was playing with fire  
Didn't know I was knee-deep in gasoline

To scared to move, felt dumb as a clown  
I stood and watched as the fuse went down

I should have known my life would explode  
To my delight  
I should have known you'd rattle my bones  
When I held you tight  
I should have known your bark's a quiet tone  
Compared to your bite  
I should have known you were dynamite

You got a red glow, a redhead once  
A redhead for always  
You knocked me out but never threw a punch  
Since May I've been in a daze

Call me a pyro, but I need you bad  
Irreducible complexity  
The bonds holding us are stronger than us  
Nothing'll separate you from me

Glowing hot like sweet, tender steel  
Hot to the touch, and boy I love the feel

I should have known my life would explode  
To my delight  
I should have known you'd rattle my bones  
When I held you tight  
I should have known your bark's a quiet tone  
Compared to your bite  
I should have known you were dynamite

One flesh past the point of no return  
In love I'll give my body up to burn

I should have known my life would explode  
To my delight  
I should have known you'd rattle my bones  
When I held you tight  
I should have known your bark's a quiet tone  
Compared to your bite  
I should have known...  
I would not condone you ever leaving my sight  
I should have known the blaze you've shone  
Would light up my night  
I should have known that your cyclone  
Would make me take flight  
I should have known you were dynamite

## ***WAITING FOR YOU***

Love has grown like a lake  
Since the day I was born  
The dam will break  
On this May morn  
I wait at the altar  
Anticipation rife  
I've been waiting for you all my life

Back when I was young  
I thought about you  
You were a song unsung  
One I instinctively knew  
I knew we would be one  
And we could weather strife  
I've been waiting for you all my life

When we're apart  
There's a part of me gone  
Like a darkened heart  
Awaiting the dawn  
But we're inseparable  
Even by the sharpest knife  
I've been waiting for you all my life

The most beautiful sight  
I will ever see  
Is you clothed in white  
Walking to me  
Best friends in love  
Pronounced husband and wife  
I've been waiting for you all my life

## ***KNOW THE TREE BY ITS FRUIT***

I know you said to abhor idols and I've seen your finger wag  
How come I saw you running out of the Pantheon with a bulky bag?  
Make sure the funds in the temple treasury are from a pure source  
Never mind that you just helped murder the Son of God, of course

And if the apples and oranges are rotten then there's a rotten root  
Truly, truly, I say to you, you will know the tree by its fruit

And if you're sowing barbed wire don't expect a cherry tree to grow  
You're a dry desert spring with a white-washed tomb clogging up the flow  
You make me carry a cross and say there's nothing you can do  
I tell you the truth, there's a millstone by the sea set aside for you

And if the apples and oranges are rotten then there's a rotten root  
Truly, truly, I say to you, you will know the tree by its fruit

And on the last day many will say, "Lord, Lord, don't you know me?  
I kept all your commands from my youth, I'm holy as you are holy"  
He will reply, "I can't place the face but I know your deeds  
They remind me of your father, the devil; he's been busy planting weeds"

And if the apples and oranges are rotten then there's a rotten root  
Truly, truly, I say to you, you will know the tree by its fruit

Take heed, you skeptics, who judge the many on account of few  
The same standard by which you judge, it shall be used with you  
You better check your eyes, don't be confused, make no mistake  
The authenticity of the true is not undone by the fake

And if the apples and oranges are rotten then there's a rotten root  
Truly, truly, I say to you, you will know the tree by its fruit

## ***ECONOMIC STIMULUS BLUES***

I was spending money I didn't have  
To obtain possessions I wanted to have  
My imagination got the best of me  
I became persuaded money grew on a tree  
So many folks have followed suit  
Because misery loves company

Now they're spending money they don't have  
And they're spending money me and my grandkids don't have  
They'll get outta the hole by digging to China, the printing press hums  
They gotta retrace their steps while there are still some breadcrumbs  
Well, you bailed everybody out, but who's gonna bail you out  
When your time comes?

Charitable donation made while under duress  
The redistribution of covetousness  
We're in good health but the dollar is at death's door  
Is it getting stimulated or just irritated more?  
An elephant-sized jackass in the room  
Is hard to ignore

Well, Greeks got brilliant philosophy but can't balance a checkbook  
Big Business took the free-lunch bait, but we all get the hook  
One nation under mammon from Wall Street to ghetto  
When the wealthiest nation in the world ain't got enough dough  
That's when I think it's time to pack up my things  
And go

## ***FLOOD***

There's a nasty storm, girl, coming up ahead  
Just around the bend  
There's a nasty storm, girl, coming up ahead  
Just around the bend  
It might knock you off your feet or kill you dead  
This might be the end

It sure takes a lot, girl, to give you a scare  
This might be the one  
It sure takes a lot, girl, to give you a scare  
This might be the one  
Go ahead, look skyward, you'll find no hope there  
Rainbow days are done

Rain is pouring from above  
Floodwaters rising fast  
You say you want someone to love  
But, girl, those times are past

When the water rises you are gonna drown  
Nothing you can do  
When the water rises you are gonna drown  
Nothing you can do  
You can't reach out for me, girl, I'm sinking down  
Just the same as you

Rain is pouring from above  
Floodwaters rising fast  
You say you want someone to love  
But, girl, those times are past

## ***I WONDER WHERE YOU ARE TONIGHT***

I wonder where you are tonight  
As we behold the same moonlight  
Long ago, walked side by side  
Then the ocean turned its tide  
And as the months and years elapse  
My pleasant memories collapse  
I'm reading our story by starlight  
I wonder where you are tonight

I wonder what is on your mind  
If you found what you wanted to find  
Why you're gone I can't recall  
Was there a reason at all?  
The providence behind our fates  
Nocturnally illuminates  
An ironclad purpose to bind  
I wonder what is on your mind

Did I mistake you for divine?  
Where God and flesh and stars align  
"If it's good it can't be true"  
I hoped it'd be different with you  
You were placid, I was restless  
You shone light in my darkness  
Thought you could change water to wine  
Did I mistake you for divine?

I wonder if it is too late  
The sun is down, the moon won't wait  
We had our chance, we had our way  
Waiting for another day  
Once it's broken it won't mend  
Until an enemy becomes a friend  
Feels like my past sealed my fate  
I wonder if it is too late

Here tonight I finally see  
I have never been free  
I wish I could take back those words  
But they scattered like a flock of birds  
The memento I kept all these years:  
My foolish pride wrapped in my fears  
You did nothing wrong, it was me  
Here tonight I finally see

I wonder where you are tonight  
As we behold the same moonlight

## ***FIGHT YOUR PROGRAMMING***

Fight your programming  
Are you man or machine  
The free decision  
Usurped by the gene  
Image of God  
Image of Man  
Or Image of Nature  
Chance's masterplan

Fight your programming  
Are you a rat in a box  
Pressing buttons  
Trying to loosen the locks  
Evil for evil  
Thoughts can kill  
Control yourself or  
Someone else will

Free until your birthright sold  
Affected, influenced, controlled

Public opinion:  
Law of the Land  
Static resignation  
To the demand  
Void solace in  
Assimilation  
Mainstream lies  
Of satisfaction

Non-existent chains are gone  
Open eyes see freedom's dawn

## *You Live, You Learn, You Burn*

1. Rock Hard
2. Something Bad, Something Good
3. Don't Be an Idiot
4. Dynamite
5. Waiting For You
6. Know the Tree By Its Fruit
7. Economic Stimulus Blues
8. Flood
9. I Wonder Where You Are Tonight
10. Fight Your Programming

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Rock Hard mastered by Bryan Bosmans

Special thanks to these very capable musicians, without whom this album wouldn't  
sound that good:

Josh Bertaux - crustacean multi-appendage drumming on all tracks except 5, 7, and 9

Paul Davis - octopus piano hands on "Dynamite"

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