

Ticking
Elton John

F **Bb/F** **F** **Bb/F**
An extremely quiet child they called you in your school reports
F **Bbsus/F** **Bb/F** **F** **Bb/F**
He s always taken interest in the subjects that he s taught
Am **Gm**

So what was it that brought the squad car screaming up your drive
C **Bb** **F** **Bb/F**
To notify your parents of the manner in which you died

F **Bb/F** **F** **Bb/F**
At St. Patricks every Sunday, Father Fletcher heard your sins
F **Bbsus/F** **Bb/F** **F** **Bb/F**
Oh, he s unconcerned with competition he never cares to win
Am **Gm**

But blood stained a young hand that never held a gun
C **Bb** **F** **Bb/F**
And his parents never thought of him as their troubled son

F **Am/E** **Dm**
Now you ll never get to Heaven
Gm **C** **F** **A7**
Mama said Remember Mama said Ticking, ticking
Dm **Gm**
Grow up straight and true blue, Run along to bed
C **C/Bb** **Am** **Gm** **F**
Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

F **Bb/F** **F** **Bb/F**
They had you holed up in a downtown bar screaming for a priest
F **Bbsus/F** **Bb/F** **F** **Bb/F**
Some gook said His brain s just snapped then someone called the police
Am **Gm**
You d knifed a Negro waiter who had tried to calm you down
C **Bb** **F** **Bb/F**
Oh you d pulled a gun and told them all to lay still on the ground

F **Bb/F** **F**
Promising to hurt no one, providing they were still
F **Bbsus/F** **Bb/F** **F**
A young man tried to make a break, with tear-filled eyes you killed
Am **Gm**
That gun butt felt so smooth and warm cradled in your palm
C **Bb** **F**
Oh your childhood cried out in your head they mean to do you harm

F **Am/E** **Dm** **Gm**

Don't ever ride on the devil's knee Mama said

C **F** **A7**
Remember mama said Ticking, ticking

Dm **Gm**
Pay your penance well, my child Fear where angels tread

C **C/Bb** **Am** **Gm** **F**
Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

F **Bb/F** **F**
Within an hour the news had reached the media machine

F **Bbsus/F** **Bb/F**
A male caucasian with a gun had gone berserk in Queens

Am **Gm**
The area had been sealed off, the kids sent home from school

C **Bb** **F**
Fourteen people lying dead in a bar they called the Kicking Mule

F **Bb/F** **F**
Oh they pleaded to your sanity for the sake of those inside

F **Bbsus/F** **Bb/F** **F**
Throw out your gun, walk out slow just keep your hands held high

Am **Gm**
But they pumped you full of rifle shells as you stepped out the door

C **Bb** **F**
Oh you danced in death like a marionette on the vengeance of the law

F **Am/E** **Dm** **Gm**
You've slept too long in silence Mama said

C **F** **A7**
Remember Mama said Ticking, ticking

Dm **Gm**
Crazy boy, you'll only wind up with strange notions in your head

C **C/Bb** **Am** **Gm** **F**
Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

Outro: **F** - **C/F** - **Bb/F**