

**Ticking**  
**Elton John**

**F#** **B/F** **F#** **B/F**  
An extremely quiet child they called you in your school reports  
**F#** **Bsus/F** **B/F** **F#** **B/F**  
He s always taken interest in the subjects that he s taught  
**Bbm** **G#m**

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

**F#** **B/F** **F#** **B/F**  
At St. Patricks every Sunday, Father Fletcher heard your sins  
**F#** **Bsus/F** **B/F** **F#** **B/F**  
Oh, he s unconcerned with competition he never cares to win  
**Bbm** **G#m**

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

**F#** **Bbm/E** **Ebm**  
Now you ll never get to Heaven  
**G#m** **C#** **F#** **Bb7**  
Mama said Remember Mama said Ticking, ticking  
**Ebm** **G#m**  
Grow up straight and true blue, Run along to bed  
**C#** **C#/Bb** **Bbm** **G#m** **F#**  
Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

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

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

**F#** **Bbm/E** **Ebm** **G#m**

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

**C# F# Bb7**

Remember mama said Ticking, ticking

**Ebm G#m**

Pay your penance well, my child Fear where angels tread

**C# C#/Bb Bbm G#m F#**

Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

**F# B/F F#**

Within an hour the news had reached the media machine

**F# Bsus/F B/F**

A male caucasian with a gun had gone berserk in Queens

**Bbm G#m**

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

**C# B F#**

Fourteen people lying dead in a bar they called the Kicking Mule

**F# B/F F#**

Oh they pleaded to your sanity for the sake of those inside

**F# Bsus/F B/F F#**

Throw out your gun, walk out slow just keep your hands held high

**Bbm G#m**

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

**C# B F#**

Oh you danced in death like a marionette on the vengeance of the law

**F# Bbm/E Ebm G#m**

You've slept too long in silence Mama said

**C# F# Bb7**

Remember Mama said Ticking, ticking

**Ebm G#m**

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

**C# C#/Bb Bbm G#m F#**

Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

Outro: **F# - C#/F - B/F**