

Ticking

Elton John

**Eb** **G#/F** **Eb** **G#/F**  
An extremely quiet child they called you in your school reports  
**Eb** **G#sus/F** **G#/F** **Eb** **G#/F**  
He s always taken interest in the subjects that he s taught  
**Gm** **Fm**

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

**Eb** **G#/F** **Eb** **G#/F**  
At St. Patricks every Sunday, Father Fletcher heard your sins  
**Eb** **G#sus/F** **G#/F** **Eb** **G#/F**  
Oh, he s unconcerned with competition he never cares to win  
**Gm** **Fm**

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

**Eb** **Gm/E** **Cm**  
Now you ll never get to Heaven  
**Fm** **Bb** **Eb** **G7**  
Mama said Remember Mama said Ticking, ticking  
**Cm** **Fm**  
Grow up straight and true blue, Run along to bed  
**Bb** **Bb/Bb** **Gm** **Fm** **Eb**  
Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

**Eb** **G#/F** **Eb** **G#/F**  
They had you holed up in a downtown bar screaming for a priest  
**Eb** **G#sus/F** **G#/F** **Eb** **G#/F**

Some gook said His brain s just snapped then someone called the police  
**Gm** **Fm**  
You d knifed a Negro waiter who had tried to calm you down  
**Bb** **G#** **Eb** **G#/F**  
Oh you d pulled a gun and told them all to lay still on the ground

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

**Eb Gm/E Cm Fm**  
 Don t ever ride on the devil s knee Mama said  
**Bb Eb G7**  
 Remember mama said Ticking, ticking  
**Cm Fm**  
 Pay your penance well, my child Fear where angels tread  
**Bb Bb/Bb Gm Fm Eb**  
 Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

**Eb G#/F Eb**  
 Within an hour the news had reached the media machine  
**Eb G#sus/F G#/F**  
 A male caucasian with a gun had gone berserk in Queens  
**Gm Fm**  
 The area had been sealed off, the kids sent home from school  
**Bb G# Eb**  
 Fourteen people lying dead in a bar they called the Kicking Mule

**Eb G#/F Eb**  
 Oh they pleaded to your sanity for the sake of those inside  
**Eb G#sus/F G#/F Eb**  
 Throw out your gun, walk out slow just keep your hands held high  
**Gm Fm**  
 But they pumped you full of rifle shells as you stepped out the door  
**Bb G# Eb**  
 Oh you danced in death like a marionette on the vengeance of the law

**Eb Gm/E Cm Fm**  
 You ve slept too long in silence Mama said  
**Bb Eb G7**  
 Remember Mama said Ticking, ticking  
**Cm Fm**  
 Crazy boy, you ll only wind up with strange notions in your head  
**Bb Bb/Bb Gm Fm Eb**  
 Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

Outro: **Eb - Bb/F - G#/F**