

Ticking  
Elton John

E A/F E A/F  
An extremely quiet child they called you in your school reports  
E Asus/F A/F E A/F  
He s always taken interest in the subjects that he s taught  
G#m F#m

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

E A/F E A/F  
At St. Patricks every Sunday, Father Fletcher heard your sins  
E Asus/F A/F E A/F  
Oh, he s unconcerned with competition he never cares to win  
G#m F#m

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

E G#m/E C#m  
Now you ll never get to Heaven  
F#m B E G#7  
Mama said Remember Mama said Ticking, ticking  
C#m F#m  
Grow up straight and true blue, Run along to bed  
B B/Bb G#m F#m E  
Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

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

E A/F E  
Promising to hurt no one, providing they were still  
E Asus/F A/F E  
A young man tried to make a break, with tear-filled eyes you killed  
G#m F#m

That gun butt felt so smooth and warm cradled in your palm  
B A E  
Oh your childhood cried out in your head they mean to do you harm

E G#m/E C#m F#m

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

**B** **E** **G#7**

Remember mama said Ticking, ticking

**C#m** **F#m**

Pay your penance well, my child Fear where angels tread

**B B/Bb** **G#m** **F#m** **E**

Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

**E** **A/F** **E**

Within an hour the news had reached the media machine

**E** **Asus/F** **A/F**

A male caucasian with a gun had gone berserk in Queens

**G#m** **F#m**

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

**B** **A** **E**

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

**E** **A/F** **E**

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

**E** **Asus/F** **A/F** **E**

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

**G#m** **F#m**

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

**B** **A** **E**

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

**E** **G#m/E** **C#m** **F#m**

You've slept too long in silence Mama said

**B** **E** **G#7**

Remember Mama said Ticking, ticking

**C#m** **F#m**

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

**B B/Bb** **G#m** **F#m** **E**

Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

Outro: **E** - **B/F** - **A/F**