

**Ticking**  
**Elton John**

**G** **C/F** **G** **C/F**  
An extremely quiet child they called you in your school reports  
**G** **Csus/F** **C/F** **G** **C/F**  
He s always taken interest in the subjects that he s taught  
**Bm** **Am**

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

**G** **C/F** **G** **C/F**  
At St. Patricks every Sunday, Father Fletcher heard your sins  
**G** **Csus/F** **C/F** **G** **C/F**  
Oh, he s unconcerned with competition he never cares to win  
**Bm** **Am**

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

**G** **Bm/E** **Em**  
Now you ll never get to Heaven  
**Am** **D** **G** **B7**  
Mama said Remember Mama said Ticking, ticking  
**Em** **Am**  
Grow up straight and true blue, Run along to bed  
**D** **D/Bb** **Bm** **Am** **G**  
Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

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

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

**G** **Bm/E** **Em** **Am**

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

**D** **G** **B7**  
Remember mama said Ticking, ticking

**Em** **Am**  
Pay your penance well, my child Fear where angels tread  
**D D/Bb Bm Am G**  
Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

**G** **C/F** **G**  
Within an hour the news had reached the media machine  
**G Csus/F C/F**  
A male caucasian with a gun had gone berserk in Queens  
**Bm Am**  
The area had been sealed off, the kids sent home from school  
**D C G**  
Fourteen people lying dead in a bar they called the Kicking Mule

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

**G Bm/E Em Am**  
You've slept too long in silence Mama said

**D** **G** **B7**  
Remember Mama said Ticking, ticking

**Em** **Am**  
Crazy boy, you'll only wind up with strange notions in your head  
**D D/Bb Bm Am G**  
Hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

Outro: **G - D/F - C/F**