

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**