

# Ticking

## Elton John

An extremely quiet child, they called you in your school report  
He's always taken interest in the subjects that he's taught  
So what was it that brought the squad car screaming up your drive  
To notify your parents of the manner in which you died? At St. Patrick's every Sunday, Father Fletcher heard  
your sins  
Oh, he's unconcerned with competition he never cares to win  
But blood stained a young hand that never held a gun  
And his parents never thought of him as their troubled son "Now you'll never get to Heaven", Mama said  
Remember Mama said  
Ticking, ticking, grow up straight and true blue  
Run along to bed, hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking They had you holed up in a downtown bar screaming for a  
priest  
Some gook said, "His brain's just snapped"  
Then someone called the police  
You'd knifed a Negro waiter who had tried to calm you down  
Oh you'd pulled a gun and told them all to lay still on the ground Promising to hurt no one, providing they were  
still  
A young man tried to make a break, with tear-filled eyes you killed  
That gun butt felt so smooth and warm cradled in your palm  
Oh your childhood cried out in your head, they mean to do you harm "Don't ever ride on the Devil's knee",  
Mama said  
Remember Mama said  
Ticking, ticking, pay your penance well, my child  
Fear where Angels tread, hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking Within an hour the news had reached the media machine  
A male Caucasian with a gun had gone berserk in Queens  
The area had been sealed off, the kids sent home from school  
Fourteen people lying dead in a bar, they called the Kicking Mule Oh they pleaded to your sanity for the sake of  
those inside  
Throw out your gun, walk out slow, just keep your hands held high  
But they pumped you full of rifle shells as you stepped out the door  
Oh you danced in death like a Marionette on the vengeance of the law "You've slept too long in silence", Mama  
said  
Remember Mama said  
Ticking, ticking, crazy boy, you'll only wind up  
With strange notions in your head, hear it, hear it, ticking, ticking

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