

## John Elton

### "Ticking - Elton John, Bernie Taupin"

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An extremely quiet child they called you in your school reports

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. Patricks 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 penence 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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