Karma Police

Words and music by Thomas Yorke, Jonathan Greenwood, Philip Selway, Colin Greenwood, and Edward O'Brien

Alternative rockers Radiohead had an enduring hit with "Creep" in 1993, but it was their 1997 masterpiece *OK Computer* that transformed them into one of the biggest bands of the last two decades. An ambient and paranoid concept album, *OK Computer* features the organic brush of acoustic guitars and piano atop digitally created walls of sound—all of which can be heard prominently on "Karma Police," the album's sixth track.

To play "Karma Police" as it sounds on the recording, use a bass-note strum pattern like the one shown below. Note how the guitar part walks up from the Em to the G chord in measure 2. Repeat this walk from Em to G in the next four-bar phrase (after the Am and F chords) and then play a similar walk from C to Am in the third four-bar phrase by wedging a C/B chord in between. There are three G-chord fingerings shown below; use each one in context to make the chord changes at hand easier: the first and most common shape works great moving from Em to G; the second shape allows a quick transition from D to G; and the third shape allows you to slide down a half step into the F♯ chord. In the Outro section, you can hear occasional Dsus2 chord embellishments throughout, and you can play these embellishments by lifting your middle finger off the high E string during the D chord to play the Dsus2 chord. Rhythm guitarist and singer Thom Yorke occasionally plays hammer-on embellishments to chords (like the first G voicing) when performing the tune live.

—ANDREW DuBROCK

Chords

Intro

Am	D9/F♯	Em	G	
Am	F	Em	G	
Am	D	G(2)	C	C/B
Am		Bm	D	

    Am D9/F♯ Em G   Am
1. Karma police, arrest this man

       F   Em   G   Am
He talks in maths, he buzzes like a fridge

      D G(2)   C C/B Am Bm D
He's like a detuned radio

    Am D9/F♯ Em G   Am
2. Karma police, arrest this girl

       F   Em G   Am
Her Hitler hairdo is making me feel ill

      D   G(2)   C C/B Am Bm D
And we have crashed her party

Chorus

   C   Dadd4   G(3)   F♯
This is what you get

   C   Dadd4   G(3)   F♯
This is what you get

   C   D   G(2)   Bm   C Bm D
This is what you get when you mess with us

   Am D9/F♯ Em G   Am
3. Karma police, I've given all I can

      F   Em G   Am
It's not enough, I've given all I can

      D   G(2)   C C/B Am Bm D
But we're still on the payroll

Repeat Chorus

Outro

  Bm   D   G(2)   D   G(2)   D   E
For a minute there I lost myself, I lost myself

(Play seven times, w/ad-lib vocal)

Bm