

# Mama Tried

Merle Haggard 1968

**INTRO:** / 1 2 / 1 2 / [G] / [G]

The first thing [G] I remember [C] knowin'  
Was a [G] lonesome whistle [C] blowin'  
And a [G] young-un's dream of [C] growin' up to [D7] ride [D7]  
On a [G] freight train leavin' [C] town  
Not [G] knowin' where I'm [C] bound  
And no [G] one could change my [D7] mind  
But Mama [G] tried [G]

One and [G] only rebel [C] child  
From a [G] family meek and [C] mild  
My [G] Mama seemed to [C] know what lay in [D7] store [D7]  
In spite of [G] all my Sunday [C] learnin'  
Toward the [G] bad I kept on [C] turnin'  
'Til [G] Mama couldn't [D7] hold me any-[G]more [G]

## CHORUS:

And I turned [G] twenty-one in prison  
Doin' [C] life without par-[G]ole  
No [Em] one could steer me right  
But Mama [D] tried, Mama [D7] tried  
Mama [G] tried to raise me better  
But her [C] pleading I de-[G]nied  
That leaves [G] only me to [D7] blame, 'cause Mama [G] tried [G]

[G]/[G]/[C]/[C]/  
[G]/[D7]/[G]/[G]

Dear old [G] Daddy rest his [C] soul  
Left my [G] mom a heavy [C] load  
She [G] tried so very [C] hard to fill his [D7] shoes [D7]  
Workin' [G] hours without [C] rest  
Wanted [G] me to have the [C] best  
She [G] tried to raise me [D7] right, but I re-[G]fused [G]

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