# Mama Tried

Merle Haggard 1968

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

The first thing **[D]** I remember **[G]** knowin’

Was a **[D]** lonesome whistle **[G]** blowin’

And a **[D]** young-un’s dream of **[G]** growin’ up to **[A7]** ride **[A7]**

On a **[D]** freight train leavin’ **[G]** town

Not **[D]** knowin’ where I’m **[G]** bound

And no **[D]** one could change my **[A7]** mind

But Mama **[D]** tried **[D]**

One and **[D]** only rebel **[G]** child

From a **[D]** family meek and **[G]** mild

My **[D]** Mama seemed to **[G]** know what lay in **[A7]** store **[A7]**

In spite of **[D]** all my Sunday **[G]** learnin’

Toward the **[D]** bad I kept on **[G]** turnin’

‘Til **[D]** Mama couldn’t **[A7]** hold me any-**[D]**more **[D]**

**CHORUS:**

And I turned **[D]** twenty-one in prison

Doin’ **[G]** life without par-**[D]**ole

No **[Bm]** one could steer me right

But Mama **[A]** tried, Mama **[A7]** tried

Mama **[D]** tried to raise me better

But her **[G]** pleading I de-**[D]**nied

That leaves **[D]** only me to **[A7]** blame, ‘cause Mama **[D]** tried **[D]**

**[D] / [D] / [G] / [G] /**

**[D] / [A7] / [D] / [D]**

Dear old **[D]** Daddy rest his **[G]** soul

Left my **[D]** mom a heavy **[G]** load

She **[D]** tried so very **[G]** hard to fill his **[A7]** shoes **[A7]**

Workin’ **[D]** hours without **[G]** rest

Wanted **[D]** me to have the **[G]** best

She **[D]** tried to raise me **[A7]** right, but I re-**[D]**fused **[D]**

**CHORUS:**

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**[G] / [D] / [G] / [D] / [G] / [D]↓↓**

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