# Mama Tried

Merle Haggard 1968

C    D    D7    Em    G
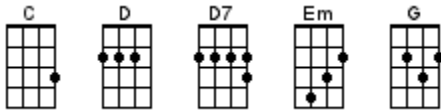
**INTRO:  / 1 2 / 1 2 / [G] / [C] / [G] / [C]**

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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**[C] / [G] / [C] / [G] / [C] / [G]↓↓**