

Mama Tried

Merle Haggard

The first thing <u>I</u> remember <u>knowing</u>	A	D
Was a <u>lonesome</u> whistle <u>blowing</u>	A	D
And a <u>young un's</u> dream of <u>growing</u> up to <u>ride</u>	A	D E7
On a <u>freight</u> train leaving <u>town</u>	A	D
Not <u>knowing</u> where I'm <u>bound</u>	A	D
And <u>no one</u> could change my <u>mind</u> , but Mama <u>tried</u>	A	E7 A

One and <u>only</u> rebel <u>child</u>	A	D
From a <u>family</u> meek and <u>mild</u>	A	D
My <u>Mama</u> seemed to <u>know</u> what lay in <u>store</u>	A	D E7
In spite of <u>all</u> my Sunday <u>learning</u>	A	D
Towards the <u>bad</u> I kept on <u>turning</u>	A	D
'Til <u>Mama</u> couldn't <u>hold</u> me <u>anymore</u>	A	E7 A

Chorus:

And I turned <u>twenty-one</u> in prison doing <u>life</u> without <u>parole</u>	A	D	A
No <u>one</u> could steer me right, but Mama <u>tried</u> , Mama tried	F#m	E7	
Mama <u>tried</u> to raise me better, but her <u>pleading</u> I <u>denied</u>	A	D	A
That leaves <u>only</u> me to <u>blame</u> 'cause Mama <u>tried</u>	A	E7	A

Dear old <u>Daddy</u> , rest his <u>soul</u>	A	D
Left my <u>Mom</u> a heavy <u>load</u>	A	D
She <u>tried</u> so very <u>hard</u> to fill his <u>shoes</u>	A	D E7
Working <u>hours</u> without <u>rest</u>	A	D
Wanted <u>me</u> to have the <u>best</u>	A	D
She <u>tried</u> to raise me <u>right</u> , but I <u>refused</u>	A	E7 A

Repeat Chorus:

And I turned <u>twenty-one</u> in prison doing <u>life</u> without <u>parole</u>	A	D	A
No <u>one</u> could steer me rightm but Mama <u>tried</u> , Mama tried	F#m	E7	
Mama <u>tried</u> to raise me better, but her <u>pleading</u> , I <u>denied</u>	A	D	A
That leaves <u>only</u> me to <u>blame</u> 'cause Mama <u>tried</u> (2x)	A	E7	A