

Mama Tried chords by Merle Haggard



[Verse 1]

The first thing I remember knowing was a lonesome whistle blowin'
And a young un's dream of growin' up to ride
On a freight train leavin' town, not knowin' where I'm bound
And no one could change my mind, but Mama tried

[Verse 2]

One and only rebel child, from a family meek and mild
My Mama seemed to know what lay in store
'Spite of all my Sunday learnin', toward the bad I kept on turnin'
'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore

[Chorus]

And I turned twenty-one in prison doin' life without parole
No one could steer me right, but Mama tried, Mama tried
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied,
that leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried

[Guitar Solo]

D G
e|--pb12(13)-----|
B|-----13--pb5(6)-----3---3-5-3-|
G|-----5--2/4---4-----|
D|-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|

D A7 D
e|-----|
B|-----pb5(6)r---|
G|-----5-|
D|---0-0-3-0-0-5-0-0-6-5-3-0-3-5---0-----|
A|-4-----|
E|-----|

[Verse 3]

Dear old Daddy, rest his soul, he left my mom a heavy load
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes

D
G
D
G
 Workin' hours without rest, wanted me to have the best
D
A7
D
 She tried to raise me right, but I refused

[Chorus]

D
G
D
 And I turned twenty-one in prison doin' life without parole
Bm
A7
 No one could steer me right, but Mama tried, Mama tried
D
G
D
 Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied,
A7
D
 that leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried

[Outro]

D
 e|-----|---pb12(13)-----|
 B|----10----10----8----7----7---|-----13--pb5(6)---/3--/3---|
 G|---7-----7-----7-----7-----7---7-|-----5--/2--/2---|
 D|-0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----|-----0---0---|
 A|-----|-----|
 E|-----|-----|

| pb Pre-bend
 | r Release
 | / Slide up
