

Mama Tried
Merle Haggard

[Intro]

D D D D (bluesy guitar lick)

[Verse 1]

 D G D G
First thing I remember knowin was a lonesome whistle blowin
 D G A7
And a young-on s dream of growing up to ride
 D G D G
On a freight train leaving town, not knowing where I m bound
 D A7 D
And no one could change my mind, but Mama tried

[Verse 2]

 D G D G
One and only rebel child, from a family meek and mild
 D G A7
Mama seemed to know what lay in store
 D G D G
Spite of all my Sunday learnin , toward the bad I kept on turnin
 D A7 D
Til Mama couldn t hold me anymore

[Chorus]

D G D
And I turned twenty-one in prison doing life without parole
 Bm D 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

[Verse 3]

 D G D G
Dear old Daddy rest his soul, he left my mom a heavy load
 D G A7
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes
 D G D G
Working hours without rest, she 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 doing life without parole

Bm

D

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

[Turnaround]

A7

D

That leaves only me to blame, cause Mama tried