

Mama Tried
Merle Haggard

Intro D A D

[Verse]

The first thing I remember know-in'
was a lonesome whist-le blow-in,
And a young-on's dream of grow-in up to ride,
On a freight train leav-in town,
not know-in where I'm bound,
And no one could change my mind, but Ma-ma tried.

One and on-ly reb-el child,
From a fam-ily meek and mild,
My ma-ma seemed to know what lay in store,
Spite all my Sun-day learn-in'
towards the bad I kept on turn-in,
Til Ma-ma could-n't hold me an-y-more.

[Chorus]

And I turned twenty-one in pris-on do-in life with-out
pa-role, No one could steer me right but Ma-ma tried,

Mama tried. Ma-ma tried to raise me bet-ter, but her
plead-ing I de-nied, That leaves only me to blame,
cause Ma-ma tried.

[Verse]

Dear ol' Dad-dy, rest his soul,
left my mom a heav-y load,
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes,
Work-in hou-rs with-out rest,
Want-ed me to have the best,
She tried to raise me right but I re-fused

[Chorus]

And I turned twenty-one in prison do-in life with-out
pa-role, No one could steer me right but Ma-ma tried,
Mama tried. Ma-ma tried to raise me bet-ter, but her
plead-ing I de-nied,
That leaves only me to blame cause Ma-ma tried.