

Mama Tried  
Merle Haggard

[Intro]

**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|-----|-----|

[Verse 1]

**D G D G**  
The first thing I remember knowing was a lonesome whistle blowin'  
**D A7**  
And a young un's dream of growin' up to ride  
**D G D G**  
On a freight train leavin' town, not knowin' 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 A7**  
My 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 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

[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]

D G D G  
 Dear old Daddy, rest his soul, he left my mom a heavy load  
D A7  
 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-|-----5--/2--/2---|  
 D|-0-----0-----0-----0-----|-----0--0---|  
 A|-----|-----|  
 E|-----|-----|

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

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