

Mama Tried

Merle Haggard

D A⁷ D D
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D G D G
The first thing I remember knowin', was a lonesome whistle blowin'

D G A⁷
And a young-un'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

D G D G
One and only rebel child, from a family meek and mild

D G A⁷
My mama seemed to know what lay in store

D G D G
'Spite of all my Sunday learning, towards the bad I kept on turnin'

D A⁷ D D
'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore / . . .

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

G 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

D G D G
Dear old daddy rest his soul, 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, wanted me to have the best

D A7 D D
She tried to raise me right but I refused

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

G 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 A7 D
That leaves only me to blame cause Mama tried // /

