

Mama Tried
Merle Haggard

Intro:

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e-----5--7p5-----
B-----5--7-----7--5-----5-----7--5p3---3--3--
G-----7-----7--4-----4--7-----7-----2-----
D--5^7--7-----7-----
A-----
E-----

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D A7 D

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                D                G
The first thing I remember knowin'
            D                G
Was a lonesome whistle a-blowin'
            D                G                A7
And the young-uns dream of growin' up to ride
            D                G
On a freight train leavin' town,
            D                G
Not knowin' where I's bound
D                A7                D
No-one could steer me right, but Mama tried

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When an only rebel child
From a family meek and mild
Mama seemed to know what lay in store
Despite all my Sunday learnin',
Toward the bad, I kept on turnin'
Til Mama couldn't hold me any more

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

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Dear old daddy, rest his soul,
Left my mom a heavy load,
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes.
Workin' hours without rest,
She wanted me to have the best.
She tried to raise me right, but I refused.