Mama Tried
Merle Haggard 1968

INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 / [G] / [G]

The first thing [G] I remember [C] knowin’
Was a [G] lonesome whistle [C] blowin’
On a [G] freight train leavin’ [C] town
Not [G] knowin’ where I’m [C] bound
And no [G] one could change my [D7] mind
But Mama [G] tried [G]

One and [G] only rebel [C] child
From a [G] family meek and [C] mild
In spite of [G] all my Sunday [C] learnin’
Toward the [G] bad I kept on [C] turnin’

CHORUS:
And I turned [G] twenty-one in prison
Doin’ [C] life without par-[G]ole
No [Em] one could steer me right
But Mama [D] tried, Mama [D7] tried
Mama [G] tried to raise me better
But her [C] pleading I de-[G]nied

[G]/[G]/[C]/[C]/
[G]/[D7]/[G]/[G]

Dear old [G] Daddy rest his [C] soul
Left my [G] mom a heavy [C] load
She [G] tried so very [C] hard to fill his [D7] shoes [D7]
Workin’ [G] hours without [C] rest
Wanted [G] me to have the [C] best
She [G] tried to raise me [D7] right, but I re-[G]fused [G]

CHORUS:
And I turned [G] twenty-one in prison
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