

**Mama Tried**  
**Merle Haggard**

<b>132</b> D xx0232	<b>21 3</b> G 320003	<b>2 3</b> A x02020	<b>13421</b> Bm x24432
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**Strum Pattern**  
 B D U B D U  
 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

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D G

The first thing I remember knowing

D G

Was a lonesome whistle blowing

D G A7 (2)

And a young'un's dream of growing up to ride

D G

On a freight train leaving town

D G

Not knowing where I'm bound

D A7 D (2)

And no one could change my mind but Mama tried

D G

One and only rebel child

D G

From a family meek and mild

D G A7 (2)

My mama seemed to know what lay in store

D G

Despite all my Sunday learning

D G

Towards the bad I kept on turning

D A7 D (2)

'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore

**Chorus**

D (2) G D

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

Bm (2) A7 (2)

No one could steer me right but Mama tried, Mama tried

D (2) G D

Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied

D A7 D (2)

That leaves only me to blame 'cause Mama tried

ID---|-----IG---|-----|  
ID---|A7---|ID---|-----|

**D** **G**  
Dear old Daddy, rest his soul

**D** **G**  
Left my mom a heavy load

**D** **G** **A7 (2)**  
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes

**D** **G**  
Working hours without rest

**D** **G**  
Wanted me to have the best

**D** **A7** **D (2)**  
She tried to raise me right but I refused

### Chorus

ID---|-----|-----|ID(hold)---|