

# Mama Tried

Merle Haggard

C G C

First thing (C)I remember (F)knowin was that (C)lonesome whistle (F)blowin'  
And a (C)youngin's dream of growin' up to (G)ride  
On a (C)freight train leavin' (F)town not (C)knowin' where I was (F)bound  
No (C)one could change my (G)mind but mama (C)tried

Was the (C)only rebel (F)child from a (C)family meek and (F)mild  
(C)Mama seemed to know what lay in (G)store  
In spite of (C)all my Sunday (F)learnin' to the (C)bad I kept on (F)turnin'  
And (C)mama couldn't (G)hold me any(C)more

And I turned (C)21 in prison doin'(Bb) life without pa(C)role  
No (Am)one could steer me right but mama (G)tried, mama (G7)tried  
Mama (C)tried to raise me better but her (Bb)pleadin' I de(C)nied  
That leaves only me to (G)blame 'cause mama (C)tried (F C)

Dear old (C)daddy rest his (F)soul left my (C)mom a heavy (F)load  
She (C)tried so very hard to fill his (G)shoes  
Workin' (C)hours without (F)rest wanted(C)me to have the (F)best  
Oh, she (C)tried to raise me (G)right but I re(C)fused

And I turned (C)21 in prison doin'(Bb) life without pa(C)role  
No (Am)one could steer me right but mama (G)tried, mama (G7)tried  
Mama (C)tried to raise me better but her (Bb)pleadin' I de(C)nied  
That leaves only me to (G)blame 'cause mama (C)tried (F C)

And I turned (C)21 in prison doin'(Bb) life without pa(C)role  
No (Am)one could steer me right but mama (G)tried, mama (G7)tried  
Mama (C)tried to raise me better but her (Bb)pleadin' I de(C)nied  
That leaves only me to (G)blame 'cause mama (C)tried (F C)