

# Mama Tried (Re-Recorded)

[Merle Haggard](#)

The first thing I remember knowing  
Was a lonesome whistle blowing  
And a young'un's dream of growing up to ride  
On a freight train leaving town  
Not knowing where I'm bound  
And no one could change my mind but Mama tried  
One and only rebel child  
From a family meek and mild  
My mama seemed to know what lay in store  
Despite all my Sunday learning  
Towards the bad I kept on turning  
Till Mama couldn't hold me anymore  
And I turned twenty-one in prison doing life without parole  
No one could steer me right but Mama tried, Mama tried  
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied  
That leaves only me to blame 'cause Mama tried  
Dear old Daddy, rest his soul  
Left my mom a heavy load  
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes  
Working hours without rest  
Wanted me to have the best  
She tried to raise me right but I refused  
And I turned twenty-one in prison doing life without parole  
No one could steer me right but Mama tried, Mama tried  
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied  
That leaves only me to blame 'cause Mama tried  
Song Discussions is protected by U.S. Patent 9401941. Other patents pending.

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