

Mama Tried – Merle Haggard

[verse 1]

The first thing I remember known' was a lonesome whistle blowin'
And a young un's dream of growin up to ride
On a freight train leavin' town not knowin' where I'm bound
And no one could change my mind, but Mama tried

[verse 2]

One and only one rebel child, from a family meek and mild
My mama seemed to know what lay in store
'Spite all my Sunday learnin', toward the back I kept on turnin'
'Till Mama couldn't hold me any more

[chorus]

And I turned 21 in prison doin' life without parole
No one could steer me right, but Mama tried , Mama tried
Mama tried to raise me better, bur her pleading I denied
That leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried

[verse 3]

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

[chorus]

And I turned 21 in prison doin' life without parole
No one could steer me right, but Mama tried , Mama tried
Mama tried to raise me better, bur her pleading I denied
That leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried