

**Mama Tried** - Grateful Dead // 1968 // key: D // Merle Haggard cover

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Intro: | D | A<sup>7</sup> | D | D\* |

1. The first thing I remember knowin' was a lonesome whistle a-blowin'

And the youngins dream of growin' up to ride

On a freight train leavin' town, not knowin' where I's bound

No-one could change my mind, but Mama tried

2. When an only rebel child, from a family meek and mild

Mama seemed to know what lay in store

Despite all my Sunday learnin', toward the bad, I kept on turnin'

'Til Mama couldn't hold me any more

Chorus: And I turned twenty-one in prison, doin' 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

And that leaves only me to blame, cause Mama tried.

Interlude: | D | A<sup>7</sup> | D | D |

3. Dear old daddy, rest his soul, left my mom a heavy load,

She tried so very hard to fill his shoes

Workin' hours without rest, she wanted me to have the best.

She tried to raise me right, but I refused.

Chorus: [Repeat Chorus]

Solo: [verse chords]

D	G	D	G
D	G	A<sup>7</sup>	A<sup>7</sup>
D	G	D	G
D	A<sup>7</sup>	D	D\*

Chorus: [Repeat Chorus]

Outro: And that leaves only me to blame, cause Mama tried!