

Free Cigar Box Guitar Tablature from CigarBoxGuitar.com

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Mama Tried

Written by Merle Haggard

Arrangement by Ben "Gitty" Baker

For 3-string Open G "GDG" Tuning · Arranged in the Key of D

D G D G

G ————— 0-0 ————— 0-2-2-2 ————— 4-4 —————

D 0-2-4-4-2-0 ————— 4 ————— 4 —————

G

First thing I remember knowin', was a lonesome whistle blowin',

D G A

G — 0-2-2-2 — 0-0 —————

D 4 ————— 4 ————— 4-0-2 —————

G

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

D G D G

G ————— 0-0-2-2-2 ————— 4 —————

D 0-2-4-4-2-0 ————— 4 —————

G

On a freight train leaving town, not knowing where I'm bound,

D A7 D

G — 0-2-2-2 — 0-0 —————

D 4 ————— 4 ————— 4-2-0 —————

G

And no one could change my mind, but mama tried,

D G D G

G ————— 0 ————— 0-2-2-2 ————— 4 —————

D 0-2-4-4-2-0 ————— 4 ————— 4 —————

G

One and only re-bel child, from a fam'ly meek and mild,

D G A D G

G 2-2-2-0-0 ————— 0-0 ————— 0-0 ————— 2-4-4-2-0 —————

D ————— 4 ————— 4-0-2 ————— 0-0 ————— 2-4-4-2-0 —————

G

Mama seemed to know what lay in store; In spite of all my Sunday learnin',

D G D A7 D

G — 0-2-2-2-2 — 4-4-4-2-2-2 — 0-0 —————

D 4 ————— 4 ————— 4 ————— 4-2-0 —————

G

Toward the bad I kept on turnin', 'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore.

(continued next page)

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G 2—2—2———7—7—7—7—7—2——2—2—4—4—2—0—2———
 D _____
 G _____

And I turned twenty-one in prison, Doing life without parole;

Bm A7
 G —————2———2——2—2—2———6—6—9———
 D 0—0—0———4———4———
 G _____

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

D G D
 G 6—6—7———7—7———7—7—2———2——2——4—4———2—0—2———
 D _____
 G _____

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

A7 D
 G —————2———0———0———
 D 0——2———4—4———4———4—2—0———
 G _____

That leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried.

Additional Verse

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, wanted me to have the best,
 She tried to steer me right but I refused.

Chord Forms

