Mama Tried [G-Bass Tablature]

Written by Merle Haggard. Arrangement by Glenn Watt.

For 2-string Bass with “GD” Tuning. Arranged in the Key of D.

\[
\begin{align*}
D &: 0 & G &: 0 & D &: 0 & G &: 0 \\
D &: 2 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{align*}
\]

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

\[
\begin{align*}
D &: 0 & G &: 0 & A &: 2 & D &: 0 \\
G &: 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 0
\end{align*}
\]

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

\[
\begin{align*}
D &: 0 & G &: 0 & D &: 0 & G &: 0 & D &: 0 & 0 & 0
\end{align*}
\]

leaving town, not knowing where I'm bound, And no one could change

\[
\begin{align*}
A7 &: 0 & D &: 0 & G &: 0 & D &: 0 & 0 & 0
\end{align*}
\]

my mind, but mama tried. One and only rebel child, from a fam'ly

\[
\begin{align*}
G &: 0 & D &: 0 & G &: 0 & A &: 2 \\
D &: 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 2
\end{align*}
\]

meek and mild, my mama seemed to know what lay in store.

\[
\begin{align*}
D &: 0 & G &: 0 & D &: 0 & 0 & 0
\end{align*}
\]

In spite of all my Sunday learnin', towards the bad I kept on

\[
\begin{align*}
G &: 0 & D &: 2 & A7 &: 2 & D &: 2 & 2 & 2 & 2
\end{align*}
\]

turnin', 'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore. And I turned

(Continued on next page)
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.

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 (3-string GDG tuning)

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