

[Intro]

```

      D
e|-----|---pb12(13)-----|
B|----10----10----8----7----7---|-----13--pb5(6)---/3--/3---|
G|---7-----7-----7-----7-----7---7-|-----5--/2--/2---|
D|-0-----0-----0-----0-----0---|-----0--0---|
A|-----|-----|
E|-----|-----|

```

[Verse 1]

```

      D          G          D          G
The first thing I remember knowing was a lonesome whistle blowin'
      D          A7
And a young un's dream of growin' up to ride
      D          G          D          G
On a freight train leavin' town, not knowin' where I'm bound
      D          A7          D
And no one could change my mind, but Mama tried

```

[Verse 2]

```

      D          G          D          G
One and only rebel child, from a family meek and mild
      D          A7
My Mama seemed to know what lay in store
      D          G          D          G
'Spite of all my Sunday learnin', toward the bad I kept on turnin'
      D          A7          D
'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore

```

[Chorus]

```

      D          G          D
And I turned twenty-one in prison doin' life without parole
      Bm          A7
No one could steer me right, but Mama tried, Mama tried
      D          G          D
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied,
      A7          D
that leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried

```

[Guitar Solo]

```

      D          G
e|---pb12(13)-----|
B|-----13--pb5(6)-----3---3-5-3-|
G|-----5--2/4---4-----|
D|-----|
A|-----|

```

E|-----|

D A7 D
 e|-----|
 B|-----pb5(6)r---|
 G|-----5-|
 D|---0-0-3-0-0-5-0-0-6-5-3-0-3-5---0-----|
 A|-4-----|
 E|-----|

[Verse 3]

D G D G
 Dear old Daddy, rest his soul, he left my mom a heavy load
 D A7
 She tried so very hard to fill his shoes
 D G D G
 Workin' hours without rest, wanted me to have the best
 D A7 D
 She tried to raise me right, but I refused

[Chorus]

D G D
 And I turned twenty-one in prison doin' life without parole
 Bm A7
 No one could steer me right, but Mama tried, Mama tried
 D G D
 Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied,
 A7 D
 that leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried

[Outro]

D
 e|-----|---pb12(13)-----|
 B|---10---10---8---7---7---|---13---pb5(6)---/3---/3---|
 G|---7---7---7---7---7---7---|---5---/2---/2---|
 D|-0---0---0---0---0---|---0---0---|
 A|-----|
 E|-----|