Mama Tried

Intro | D / A / | D A D - |

Verse 1 | D / G / | % | % | A / / / | D / G / | % | D / A / | D A D - |

First I remember knowin' was that lonesome whistle blowin'
And a youngin's dream of growin' up to ride.
On a freight train leavin' town, not knowin' where I was bound
No one could steer me right, but mama tried.

Verse 2 Was the only rebel child from a family meek and mild
Mama seemed to know what lay in store
In spite of all my Sunday learnin' for the bad I kept on turnin'
Mama couldn't hold me anymore.

Chorus | D / / / | C / D / | Bm / / / | A / / / |

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 right, but her pleadin' I denied
That leaves no one but me to blame cause mama tried.

Instru | D / A / | D A D - |

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

Chorus

Lead = Verses (starts right on the D of the verse, don't do "|D/A/|DAD-|")

Chorus

End That leaves no one but me to blame cause mama tri______ed.
**Verse 1**

Laid back in an old saloon, with a peso in my hand,
Watchin' flies and children on the street,
I catch a glimpse of black-eyed girls who giggle when I smile,
There's a little boy who wants to shine my feet.
And it's three days ride from Bakersfield and I don't know why I came.
I guess I came to keep from payin' dues.
So instead I've got a bottle and a girl who's just fourteen,
And a damn good case of the Mexicali Blues. Yeh!

**Chorus 1**

Is there anything a man don't stand to lose, When the devil wants to take it all away?
Cherish well your thoughts, and keep a tight grip on your booze,
Cause thinkin' and drinkin' are all I have today.

**Lead = 1 x Intro**

**Verse 2**

*She said her name was Billy Jean* and she was fresh in town.
I didn't know a stage line ran from Hell.
She had raven hair, a ruffled dress, a necklace made of gold,
All the french perfume you'd care to smell.
She took me up into her room and whispered in my ear,
"Go on, my friend, do anything you choose."
Now I'm payin' for those happy hours I spent there in her arms,
With a lifetime's worth of the Mexicali Blues, yeh.

**Chorus 1**

Is there anything a man don't stand to lose, When the devil wants to take it all away?
Cherish well your thoughts, and keep a tight grip on your booze,
Cause thinkin' and drinkin' are all I have today.

**Lead = Intro repeated**

**Verse 3**

*And then a man rode into town*, some thought he was the law.
Billy Jean was waitin' when he came.
She told me he would take her, if I didn't use my gun,
I'd have no one but myself to blame.
I went down to those dusty streets, blood was on my mind.
I guess that stranger hadn't heard the news
Cause I shot first and killed him, Lord, he didn't even draw
And he made me trade the gallows for the Mexicali Blues.

**Chorus 3**

Is there anything a man don't stand to lose
When he lets a woman hold him in her hands?
He just might find himself out there on horseback in the dark
Just ridin and runnin across those desert sands.
Me and My Uncle

Intro = | Em /// | B / Em - |

Verse 1 3x |: G /// | Em /// : || G /// | A /// | G / Bm / | Em / / / | % |

Me and my uncle went ridin' down,
South Colorado, West Texas bound.
We stopped over in Santa Fe,
That bein' the point just about half way,
And you know it was the hottest part of the day.

Verse 2 I took the horses up to the stall,
Went to the barroom, ordered drinks for all.
Three days in the saddle, you know my body hurt,
It being summer, I took off my shirt.
And I tried to wash off some of that dusty dirt.

Verse 3 West Texas cowboys, they's all around.
Women, liquor and money, they loaded down.
Soon after payday know it seemed a shame;
You know my uncle he starts a friendly game.
And it's high-low jack and the winner take the hand.

Lead

Verse 4 My uncle starts winning; cowboys got sore.
One of them called him, and then two more,
Accused him of cheating; Oh no, it couldn't be.
I know my uncle, he's as honest as me,
And I'm as honest as a Denver man can be.

Verse 5 One of them cowboys, he starts to draw,
I shot him down, Lord he never saw.
Shot me another, oh damn he won't grow old.
In the confusion, my uncle grabbed the gold,
And we high-tailed it down to Mexico.

Verse 6 I love those cowboys, I love their gold,
I loved my uncle, God rest his soul,
Taught me good, Lord, taught me all I know.
Taught me so well, I grabbed that gold
And I left his dead ass there by the side of the road.
Big River

||: A / / / | % | % | D B E / |
| A / / / | D / / / | A / E / | A D A / : ||

Chorus

Well I taught that weeping willow how to cry cry cry,
Taught the clouds how to cover up a clear blue sky.
Tears I cried for that woman are gonna flood you big river,
And I'm a gonna sit right here until I die.

Verse 1

I met her accidentally in St. Paul, Minnesota,
She tore me up everything I heard her drawl, that southern drawl.
Well I heard my dream went back downstream, cavortin' in Davenport,
And I follow you big river when you called.

Chorus

Lead (2 Rounds)

Verse 2

Well I followed her down to St. Louie, later on down the river,
Trader said she's been here, but she's gone, boy, she's gone.
Well I followed her down to Memphis, but she just walked off the bus,
She raised a few eyebrows and she went on down alone.

Chorus

Keyboard Lead (2 Rounds)

Verse 3

Well I've gotten on down to Baton Rouge, River Queen roll on,
Take that woman down to New Orleans, New Orleans.
I give up, I've had enough, followed my blues on down to the gulf,
She loves you big river more than me.

Chorus

Lead (Multi-Rounds)

Chorus

And I'm a gonna sit right here until I die.
And I'm a gonna sit right here until I die.