You had big plans, I understand You wanted more for me than you ever got from a man Fancy dresses, big diamond rings House full of babies and designer blue jeans

Mama I tried, Mama I tried
I cheated, and I lied
I painted up my face like a rodeo clown
And I choked on cheap perfume as I spread myself around
I strutted my stuff at every juke joint in town
Always a bridesmaid, never the bride
Mama, Mama I tried

I got so close so many times

Now I'll never get back the best years of my life

Empty proposals, all talk no show

It's gettin' too hard to keep holdin' on, now you've got to let

it go

Mama I tried, Mama I tried
I cheated, and I lied
I painted up my face like a rodeo clown
And I choked on cheap perfume as I spread myself around
I strutted my stuff at every juke joint in town
Always a bridesmaid, never the bride
Mama, Mama I tried

Lord have mercy
Mama I tried, Mama I tried
I cheated, and I lied
I painted up my face like a rodeo clown
And I choked on cheap perfume as I spread myself around
I strutted my stuff at every juke joint in town
Always a bridesmaid, never the bride
Mama, Mama I tried
Goddammit, Mama I tried