MIKA.MONTERO

Mama Didn't Raise a Fool

No Angel. No Apology. · track 9 of 15

Intro

She used to say,
"Don't let a pretty room
make you forget who opened the door."
I didn't understand it then.
I do now.

Verse 1

She could stretch a little money through a whole damn week,
Make a Sunday dinner with whatever we could keep.
Never had a diamond, never chased a name,
But everybody knew her when she walked into a place.
She said, "Listen when they talk, but watch what they do,
A lot of people sell a version that ain't really true."
She taught me how to stand up, how to hold my ground,
And how to leave a room without making a sound.
She wasn't always right, and neither was I,
We had those little battles where we'd both get loud.
But every time I thought that I knew everything,
She'd say one little sentence that would change a thing.

Chorus

Mama didn't raise a fool,
Though I gave her quite a few reasons to worry.
I learned the hard way, broke a few rules,
But I always had a way back to the truth.

Verse 2

She said, "Never let a man become your whole direction,
Love is not a job where you beg for his attention.
And don't confuse a loud voice with a man who's strong,
Sometimes the quiet ones know where they belong."
She said, "Be kind, but don't be everybody's floor,
You can forgive somebody and still close the door.
Don't count your blessings by the things you own,
A full bank account can't keep you warm at home."
I broke some promises, I missed a few signs,
I gave the wrong people too much of my time.
I thought being grown meant I had to know it all,
Turns out being grown means you can admit when you fall.

Chorus

Mama didn't raise a fool,
Though I gave her quite a few reasons to worry.
I learned the hard way, broke a few rules,
But I always had a way back to the truth.

Verse 3

I remember little things that nobody sees,
Her singing in the kitchen, dancing while she cleaned.
The way she'd fix my collar before I left the house,
Then pretend she wasn't worried when I went out.
I didn't know the strength it took to keep us steady,
How many dreams she postponed to make sure we were ready.
Now I hear her in my head when I get carried away,
And sometimes I laugh because I sound just the same.
I don't want her life, I want her kind of grace,
The courage to be honest when the world changes face.
And if I ever raise a child, I hope they learn from me
That being strong means knowing when to let yourself be free.

Bridge

I wish I could go back
To that little kitchen light,
Tell her all the things
I understand tonight.
That every little warning
Was a gift I couldn't see,
And every time she held her ground,
She was teaching me to be me.

Final Chorus

Mama didn't raise a fool,
Though I gave her quite a few reasons to worry.
I learned the hard way, broke a few rules,
But I always had a way back to the truth.

Coda

And if I ever lose my way,
I'll remember what she used to say.
You don't have to win every fight,
Just make sure you can sleep at night.

Outro

She still thinks I should call more often.
She's probably right.

Words by Mika Montero · © 2026 Mika Montero