

The early years ...

"Brooklyn Is not the easiest place to grow up in. That said, I wouldn't change that experience for anything." - ND

"I had just signed with MCA records and wanted to stretch my creative wings. This is the most literal and personal story I had written up to that point. "Brooklyn Roads" told of my youth and my aspirations. I loved the freedom of being able to write something without the charts in mind." - ND

BROOKLYN ROADS

NEIL DIAMOND

If I close my eyes  
I can almost hear my mother  
Callin', "Neil go find your brother  
Daddy's home, it's time for supper  
Hurry on."

And I see two boys  
Racin' up two flights of staircase  
Squirmin' into Papa's embrace  
And his whiskers warm on their face  
Where's it gone?  
Where's it gone?

Two floors above the butcher  
First door on the right  
And life filled to the brim  
As I stood by my window  
And looked down on those  
Brooklyn roads

I can still recall  
The smells of cookin' in the hallways  
Rubbers drying in the doorways  
And report cards I was always  
Afraid to show

Mama'd come to school  
And as I sit there softly crying  
Teacher'd say, "He's just not trying  
Got a good head if he'd apply it  
But you know yourself,  
It's always somewhere else."

I built me a castle  
With dragons and kings  
And I'd ride off with them  
As I stood by my window  
And looked down on those  
Brooklyn roads

I thought of going back  
But all I'd see are stranger's faces  
And all the scars that love erases  
But as my mind walks through those places  
I'm wonderin',  
What's come of them?

Does some other young boy  
Come home to my room  
Does he dream what I did  
As he stands by my window  
And looks down on those  
Brooklyn roads  
Brooklyn roads  
Brooklyn roads

Neil Diamond 1971  
Velvet Gloves & Spit