

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