

## The Poetry of Broadway Songs

*"The Road You Didn't Take"* from *Follies* by  
Stephen Sondheim

You're either a poet  
Or you're a lover  
Or you're the famous  
Benjamin Stone

You take one road  
You try one door  
There isn't time for any more  
One's life consists of either or...

One has regrets  
Which one forgets  
And as the years go on  
The road you didn't take  
Hardly comes to mind  
Does it?

The door you didn't try  
Where could it have led?  
The choice you didn't make  
Never was defined  
Was it

Dreams you didn't dare  
Are dead  
Were they ever there?  
Who said  
I don't remember  
I don't remember  
At all

The books  
I'll never read  
Wouldn't change a thing  
Would they?  
The girls I'll never know  
I'm too tired for

The lives I'll never lead  
Couldn't make me sing  
Could they?  
Could they?  
Could they?

Chances that you miss

Ignore

Ignorance is bliss

What's more

You won't remember

You won't remember

At all

Not at all

You yearn for the women

Long for the money

Envy the famous

Benjamin Stone

You take your road

The decades fly

The yearnings fade, the longings die

You learn to bid them all goodbye

And oh, the peace

The blessed peace

At last you come to know

The roads you never take

Go through rocky ground

Don't they?

The choices that you make

Aren't all that grim

The worlds you never see

Still will be around

Won't they

The Ben

I'll never be

Who remembers him?