

# Paddy Chayefsky

## Quotes

*Men, War, Art, Thinking, Writing, Television, Boredom, Want, People,  
Democracy, Fear, Player, Life, Half, Censorship, Destiny, Amusement, Brother,  
Memorial Day, Mind*

You British plundered half the world for your own profit. Let's not pass it off as the Age of Enlightenment.

~Paddy Chayefsky

Ma, sooner or later there comes a point in a man's life when he's gotta face some facts. And one fact I've got to face is whatever it is women like, I ain't got it.

~Paddy Chayefsky

Stop thinking about writing as art. Think of it as work. If you're an artist, whatever you do is going to be art. If you're not an artist, at least you can do a good day's work.

~Paddy Chayefsky

It's always the generals with the bloodiest records who are the first to shout what a hell it is. And it's always the war widows who lead the Memorial Day parades.

~Paddy Chayefsky

Americans don't want drama, especially good drama, they just want their boredom killed.

~Paddy Chayefsky

Artists don't talk about art. Artists talk about work. If I have anything to say to young writers, it's stop thinking of writing as art. Think of it as work.

~Paddy Chayefsky

The worst kind of censorship is the kind that takes place in your own mind before you sit down to a typewriter.

~Paddy Chayefsky

Television is the menace that everyone loves to hate but can't seem to live without.

~Paddy Chayefsky

God save us from people who do the morally right thing. It's always the rest of us who get broken in half.

~Paddy Chayefsky

Television is democracy at its ugliest.

~Paddy Chayefsky

I'm not a great writer. I'm a great rewriter.

~Paddy Chayefsky

The best thing that can happen is for the theme to be nice and clear from the beginning.

~Paddy Chayefsky

Don't think of it as art, think of it as work.

~Paddy Chayefsky

You don't send a man to his death because you want a hero.

~Paddy Chayefsky

Television will do anything for a rating... anything!

~Paddy Chayefsky

Television is not the truth. Television is a goddamned amusement park.

~Paddy Chayefsky

I'm a human being, god-dammit. My life has value!

~Paddy Chayefsky

We've established the most enormous medical entity ever conceived... and people are sicker than ever. We cure nothing! We heal nothing!

~Paddy Chayefsky

I'm not sentimental about war. I see nothing noble in widows.

~Paddy Chayefsky

The first dead man on Omaha Beach must be a sailor!

~Paddy Chayefsky

Howard Beale is processed, instant God, and right now it looks like he might just go over bigger than Mary Tyler Moore.

~Paddy Chayefsky

I'm afraid to look in the mirror. I'm afraid I'm going to see an old lady with white hair, just like the old ladies in the park. A little bundle in a black shawl just waiting for the coffin.

~Paddy Chayefsky

This was the story of Howard Beale: The first known instance of a man who was killed because he had lousy ratings.

~Paddy Chayefsky

You're not such a dog as you think you are.

~Paddy Chayefsky

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