

Key Quotations- "Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha"

Paddy on Da: "He'd be mean now and again, really mean for no reason."

Paddy finds Sinbad annoying early on: "I loved getting him into trouble."

Paddy admires some things about Sinbad: "he was my brother and he was holding a dead rat in his hand."

Paddy likes being part of a group early on; in the Zentoga ritual, he says: "It was good being in the circle."

Paddy drifts away from Da gradually- says after he learns to ride his bike: "I didn't need him now. I didn't want him"

Paddy on feeling isolated in the middle of his parents' rows and being on guard: "I was alone, the only one who knew... all I could do was watch."

Paddy is confused about why his Ma and Da don't get on: "I didn't understand. She was lovely. He was nice."

Paddy on how his mum later comes to rely on him instead of taking care of him like before: "she wasn't cuddling us; she was hanging on to us."

Paddy eventually feels it is up to him to try to prevent the arguments between his parents: "I was in charge. They didn't know...But I had to stay awake all night; I had to keep an all-night vigil."

Paddy on the strain he feels as the family is breaking up: "I couldn't stop myself from crying these days."

He admits he needs Sinbad later because he can't cope on his own: "I'd wanted him to talk because I was scared...He knew: I was frightened and lonely, more than he was."

Paddy feels his Da is mainly responsible for the arguments: "My da had more wrong with him than my ma"

Paddy on becoming isolated at the end as he's grown apart from everyone: "I'd no one now. The way I'd wanted it."

He's outgrown his former friends: "I didn't listen to them. They were only kids."

Irony of novel title- starts off as a happy story and then is bitter and sad:

"Paddy Clarke-

Paddy Clarke-

Has no da.

Ha ha ha!"