SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DECISION

Under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act)

HEADNOTE

Title of publication:

Deadpool 2

Other known title(s):

Not stated

OFLC ref:

1800196.000

Medium:

Film

Classification:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted

to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

Descriptive note:

Graphic violence, sexual references and offensive language

Display conditions:

None

Deadpool 2 is an American Marvel action comedy, based on the comics of the same name. The feature follows Wade Wilson (also known as Deadpool) and his initial quest to avenge the murder of his girlfriend, Vanessa. Along the way, he helps a fellow 'mutant', Russell, a New Zealand kid with fire-based powers. After both Russell and Deadpool break out of jail, Deadpool forms the squad 'X-Force' to protect Russell from the perceived villain from the feature, Cable. The feature breaks up the action through satirical commentary and unconventional methods, such as breaking the fourth wall and talking directly to the audience, parodying the typical superhero narrative.

The feature deals with matters of sex through extensive use of sexual references. Mentions of blow jobs, dildos and statements of "doing me", "being inside you," and so forth make up a large amount of the dialogue. The sexual innuendo occurs during unrelated conversations and in the middle of violent sequences, providing crude comedic relief. When discussing whether to have sex with Cable, Deadpool comments that he'd "do anything over the pants," as if it were part of a pornography contract negotiation. At the beginning of the feature, Vanessa tells Wade that they will "watch some porn" while Wade "gets the strap-on." The sexual references are crude, and even occasionally, explained explicitly to the audience as "bad innuendo".

In attempting to kill, or at least maim the giant mutant Juggernaut, Colossus an X-Man, takes a live electric wire and places into the anus of Juggernaut. The anal penetration with an electric wire is depicted as light-hearted and an attempt to kill the Juggernaut who is otherwise indestructible.

The feature deals with matters of horror in the disfigured face of Wade and gruesome bodily horror. Wade uses self-deprecating humour regarding his face, stating it is "similar to that of an acid burn victim," but some viewers may find his facial scarring horrific. Additionally, some of the injuries that Deadpool and his counterparts receive are gruesome in their depiction.

The Marvel narrative frequently deals with crime in regards to numerous depictions of assault and murder, predominantly carried out by Deadpool. Deadpool, is an antihero and does not

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typically live by the rules that 'normal' superheroes subscribe to. The feature has one depiction of drug use. When Wade is depressed over the loss of his girlfriend, he returns to his old flat with Blind Al, and takes out a hidden bag labelled "Wade's Cocaine." He holds the white powder and puts it in his mask. The bag breaks and white powder erupts over the room. This is depicted in a comedic manner, and the brevity of the drug use and reference mitigates the overall impact.

An emotional cruelty is evident between Russell and Wade. Wade initially denies Russell any form of friendship or companionship, with Russell overhearing Wade's mean comments about him to Cable. The feature has a cruel institution where children 'mutants' are kept and subject to episodes of torture to rid them of any potential powers. The headmaster ties the children on chairs, and proceeds to electrocute them at the neck against their will, as an electroshock therapy.

The feature has a high extent of graphic violence, including multiple sequences of impaling many individuals at once, with blood and debris of bloodied bodies. One fighting instance depicts Juggernaut holding Deadpool in his hands and then tearing him in two. His legs and torso are separated, with a pool of blood collecting under the still alive Deadpool who shows no pain. Domino wraps Deadpool's arms around her neck, carrying his torso back home, as his legs begin to grow back. Another instance depicts Deadpool placing his hand over the muzzle of a gun, which is fired at close range. The gun goes through his hand, producing a gruesome image.

After landing a jump from a plane, the 'X-Force' depletes in quick succession. Pete heads to help Zeitgeist, stuck in an arborist machine. Zeitgeist vomits acidic bile onto Pete, and his arm is burnt off as a result. Pete falls to the ground as the acid eats away at the remainder of his body. As this occurs, Zeitgeist is sucked through the machine and is consequently shredded. His body matter and blood is splattered around the machine and its surroundings.

Although the film is laden with gory violence, it is set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), focusing on superpowers and the affiliated characters. Deadpool is able to evade death, and although he receives excessive bodily harm, is immune to death, with the exception of when he is wearing a power-reducing collar. He survives multiple stabbings, bullet wounds and being torn in half. This reduces the realism of the violence. Deadpool runs a commentary toward the audience throughout the violence which mitigates the impact of the sequences. However, the humour is also likely to trivialise the stronger violent elements.

The feature contains other depictions of the infliction of serious physical harm. There are multiple high energy action sequences, often switching between frenetic fighting and slow-motion with stylish special effects. All of the action scenes are accompanied by an upbeat soundtrack or satirical singles. The gory violence includes stabbings, shootings, decapitations and dismemberment of various limbs.

One scene has a far-fetched depiction of self-harm. After his girlfriend is killed, Deadpool brings multiple oil barrels into his apartment, leaves the gas on in his oven, and lies over the barrels. He then places his lit cigarette into the barrels which upon impact, explode. Consequently, he is blown up, with the debris of his body spread across the room. With his superpower healing properties, his body heals itself over a short period of time. Although gory and shocking, the act of self-harm is exaggerated and clearly fantastical within the MCU. It is unlikely to significantly increase the risk of younger viewers killing, or causing serious harm to themselves or others.

Deadpool and others frequently uses highly offensive language in the form of "fuck" (and its derivatives), "motherfucker" and to a lesser extent, "bitch", "cunt" and "shit". It is predominantly used in an aggressive or threatening context when either engaging with enemy

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characters or expressing disgust and anger in a situation. Other offensive language is used in conjunction with sexual references. The high frequency and degree of the offensive language is likely to cause serious harm to younger audiences because of its normalisation within the dialogue, particularly in a comedic context.

Deadpool 2 is a well-made superhero satire, laden with crude humour and graphic violence. The feature has graphic depictions and exaggerated sequences of assault and murder. These depictions are likely to shock and disturb children and younger teenagers, and have an adverse impact on them. The sheer extent of this content is likely to have a desensitising effect. The comedic nature of the violence, and the film's self-awareness through breaking the fourth wall, lessens the impact of violence. The feature is saturated with highly offensive language and sexual references, which support a restriction. Children and younger teenagers are not likely to understand the dark humour that permeates the feature. Balancing these harms against the right to freedom of expression as set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, a restriction on the availability of Deadpool 2 to those 16 years and older is the lowest reasonable restriction which can be applied in order to prevent injury to the public good.

Note:

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CONSIDERATION SHEET

OFLC ref:

1800196.000

Submission channel:

s12(1)

Title of publication:

Deadpool 2

Other known title:

Not stated

Medium:

Film

Distributor:

20th Century Fox Film Distribution

Director:

David Leitch

Producer:

Simon Kinberg

et al.

Country of origin:

United States

Language:

English

Applicant:

Film & Video Labelling Body

Examination transcript No:

724 (149-159)

Examination date:

09 May 2018

Other identifying

information:

COMPONENTS OF FILM

Components of film originally examined:

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	Deadpool 2	119:13
Total running time:		119:13

Components of film excised:

CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLICATION UNDER THE FILMS, VIDEOS, AND PUBLICATIONS CLASSIFICATION ACT 1994 (FVPC ACT)

Description

Deadpool 2 is an American Marvel action comedy, based on the comics of the same name. The feature follows Wade Wilson (also known as Deadpool) and his initial quest to avenge the murder of his girlfriend. Along the way, he befriends a fellow 'mutant', Russell, a New Zealand kid with fire-based powers. After both Russell and Deadpool break out of jail, he forms the squad X-Force to protect Russell from the villain of the story, Cable. The feature breaks up the action through comedic commentary and unconventional methods, such as breaking the fourth wall and talking directly to the audience.

Section 3(1)

Does the publication deal with matters such as:

✓ Se

The feature deals with matters of sex with extensive use of sexual references. References to blow jobs, dildos, 'doing me', "I've been inside you," and so forth make up a large amount of the dialogue. The sexual references and innuendos occur during conversations and in the middle of violent scenes. When discussing whether to have sex with Cable, Deadpool comments that he'd "do anything over the pants." At the beginning of the film, Vanessa tells Wade that they will "watch some porn" while he "gets the dildo." The sexual references are crude, and even sometimes, explained as "a bad innuendo".

In attempting to kill, or at least maim, the Juggernaut, Colossus takes a live electric wire and places into the anus of Juggernaut. The anal penetration with an electric wire is light-hearted and an attempt to injure the Juggernaut who is otherwise indestructible.

✓ Horror

The feature deals with matters of horror in the disfigured face of Wade and gruesome bodily horror. Wade self-describes his face as being "similar to that of an acid burn victim," but some viewers may find his facial scarring horrific. Some of the injuries that Deadpool receives are gruesome in their depiction. See s 3(3)(a)(i) for further discussion.

✓ Crime

The Marvel narrative frequently deals with crime in regards to numerous depictions of assault and murder, predominantly carried out by Deadpool. Wade, in Deadpool, plays an antihero role and does not typically live by the rules that 'normal' superheroes subscribe to. The strongest instances of assault and murder will be discussed under s3(3)(a)(i).

Section 3(1) The feature has one reference to drug use. When Wade is depressed over the loss of his girlfriend, he returns to his old flat with Blind Al, and takes out a bag labelled "Wade's Cocaine." He holds the white powder and puts it in his mask. The bag breaks and white powder erupts. This is depicted in a comedic manner, and the brevity of the drug use and reference mitigates the overall impact. Cruelty An emotional cruelty is evident between Russell and Wade. Wade denies Russell any form of friendship or companionship, with Russell overhearing Wade's mean comments about him to Cable. The violent attack on Wade's girlfriend, Vanessa, is the pivotal cruel act that motivates him into protecting Russell. The feature has an institution where children 'mutants' are kept and subject to episodes of torture to rid them of any potential powers. The headmaster ties the children on chairs, and proceeds to electrocute them from the neck. Violence

Section	Section 3(2)	
Does the content of the publication raise any of these issues? If it does, discuss, and conclude whether the publication promotes or supports, or tends to promote or support, that matter.		
	s 3(2)(a) The exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes	
-		
	s 3(2)(b) The use of violence or coercion to compel participation in or submission to sexual conduct	
<u>-</u>	s 3(2)(c) Necrophilia	
-	s 3(2)(d) The use of urine or excrement in association with sexual or degrading conduct	

See 3(3)(a)(i) for further discussion.

None of the above, proceed to s 3A and s 3B

Section 3(2)	
	s 3(2)(f) Acts of torture or extreme violence or cruelty
✓	None of the above
If the pu	blication promotes or supports (or tends to) any of these matters, could excisions be used the problematic content?
	Yes. Consider the rest of the publication under s 3(3) and s 3(4) and discuss the required excisions in the conclusion.
	No. The publication is deemed to be objectionable. <u>Proceed to Conclusion</u>

Section 3(3):

If any of the following criteria apply, discuss in terms of the extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication:

s 3(3)(a)(i) Deals with torture, serious physical harm, significant cruelty

The feature contains graphic depictions of violence involving the infliction of serious physical harm. There are multiple high energy action sequences, often switching between the frenetic fighting, using slow-motion sequences and stylish special effects. All of the action scenes are accompanied by an upbeat soundtrack or satirical singles. The gory violence includes stabbings, shootings, decapitations of both heads and various limbs, as well as the severing of heads.

The feature has a high extent of violence, including:

- Sequences of impaling many individuals at once, with blood and debris from bodies evident
- Deadpool being held up by Juggernaut, and torn into two. His legs and torso are separated, with a pool of blood collecting under the still alive Deadpool. Domino wraps his arms around her neck, carrying his torso back home.
- Deadpool places his hand over the muzzle of a gun, which is shot at close range. The gun goes through his hand, producing a gruesome image.
- Pete heads to help Zeitgeist, stuck in the tree trimming machine. Zeitgeist vomits acidic vomit onto Pete, and his arm is burnt off as a result. Pete falls to the ground as the acid eats

Section 3(3):		
away at the remainder of the side of his body. As this occurs, Zeitgeist goes through trimming machine and is consequently shredded. His body matter and blood is splat around the machine.		
Although the film is laden with gory violence, it is set against the Marvel comic fictional narrative, focusing on superpowers and the affiliated characters. Deadpool is able to evade death, and although receives excessive bodily harm, is immune to any threat of death. He survives multiple stabbings, bullet wounds and being torn in half by growing a new set of legs. This reduces the realism of the violence. Deadpool runs a commentary throughout the violence which mitigates the impact of the sequences. However, the humour is also likely to trivialise the stronger violent elements.		
	s 3(3)(a)(ii) Deals with sexual violence/coercion	
_	s 3(3)(a)(iii) Deals with degrading/dehumanising/demeaning sexual or physical conduct	
	,	
<u> </u>	s 3(3)(a)(iv) Deals with sexual conduct with or by children and young people	
	s 3(3)(a)(v) Deals with sexual satisfaction from inflicting or suffering pain/cruelty	
	s 3(3)(b) Exploits the nudity of a child or young person	
	s 3(3)(c) Degrades/dehumanises/demeans any person	
	s 3(3)(d) Promotes/encourages crime or terrorism	
	·	
	s 3(3)(e) Presents members of a class of the public as inherently inferior	
,	·	

Section	Section 3(3):		
	Publication doesn't deal with any s 3(3) criteria		
,			
Section	Section 3A:		
Does the publication contain highly offensive language likely to seriously harm young viewers? Yes No			
Discuss (in or any hig	ncluding any necessary consideration of offensive language that is not "highly offensive" hly offensive language which is not likely to cause serious harm to young viewers):		
aggressive and anger The high	Deadpool frequently uses highly offensive language in the form of "fuck" (and its derivatives), "motherfucker" and to a lesser extent, "bitch", "cunt" and "shit". It is predominantly used in an aggressive or threatening context when either engaging with enemy characters or expressing disgust and anger in a situation. Other offensive language is used in conjunction with sexual references. The high frequency and extent of the offensive language is likely to cause serious harm to younger audiences.		
Section :	3R∙		
	oublication deal with any of the following?		
_	Conduct that, if imitated, would pose a risk of serious harm to self or others other than already discussed under s 3(3) criteria		
✓	Self-harm/suicide or harm to a person's body other than already discussed under s 3(3) criteria		
his lit cigar debris of h itself over	e has a far-fetched depiction of self-harm. After his girlfriend is killed, Deadpool brings into his apartment, leaves the gas on in his oven, and lies over the barrels. He then places ette into the barrels which upon impact, explode. Consequently, he is blown up, with the is body thrown around the room. With his superpower healing properties, his body heals a short period of time. Although gory and shocking, the act of self-harm is exaggerated fantastical within the Marvel universe.		
	Physical conduct which is degrading, dehumanising or demeaning other than already discussed under s 3(3) criteria		

Section 3B:		
_	Visual images of a body that are degrading/dehumanising/demeaning other than that under s 3(3)(c)	
_	None of the above	
Cause any of the depict of the	Likely to cause them to be greatly disturbed or shocked Likely to increase significantly the risk of them killing, or causing serious harm to, themselves, others, or both Likely to encourage them to treat or regard themselves, others, or both, as degraded tely harm/s or why the content is unlikely to cause these harms: ction of Deadpool's suicide is fantastical and unrealistic. Although it is shocking and is unlikely to significantly increase the risk of them killing, or causing serious harm to so or others.	
Submissi	ions & consultations (if applicable)	
	Consultation or enquiries required under s 21	
-	Submissions received from interested parties under s 20	
Anyotho		
	r information to be taken into account (if relevant) us OFLC decisions, decisions of other classification bodies, research, books, articles,	

Conclusion

- In addition to all of the above matters, consider relevant s 3(4) matters: the dominant effect of the publication, character of the publication (including any merit, value or importance), impact of the medium, intended or likely audience, intended purpose, and any other relevant circumstances relating to its use
- Identify any likely injury to the public good from the unrestricted availability of the publication
- Determine the classification, taking into account the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBORA) and the need to impose the least restrictive limitation on the right to freedom of expression that will prevent injury to the public good

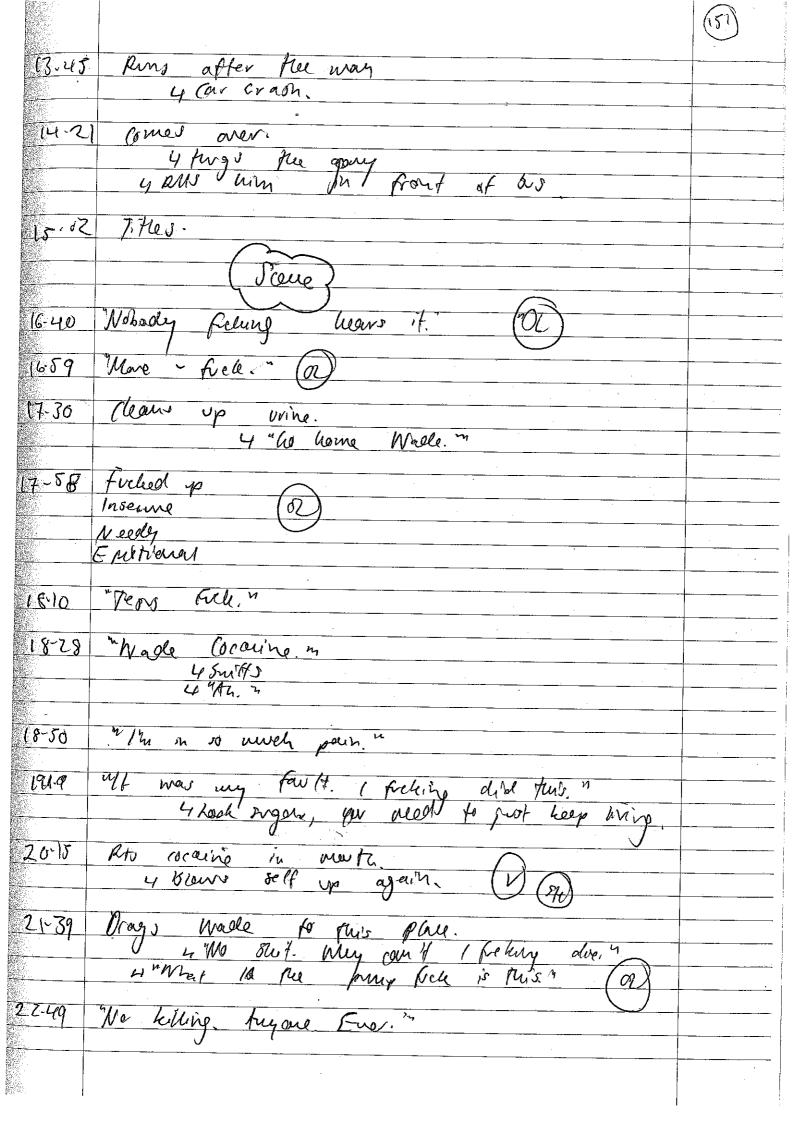
Deadpool 2 is a well-made superhero satire, laden with crude humour and graphic violence. The feature has graphic depictions and sequences of assault and murder. These depictions are likely to shock and disturb children and younger teenagers, and have an adverse impact on them. The feature is saturated with highly offensive language and sexual references. Children and younger teenagers are not likely to understand the dark humour that permeates the feature. The comedic nature of the violence, and the film's self-awareness through breaking the fourth wall, lessens the impact of the extent and degree of violence in the feature. Balancing these harms against the right to freedom of expression as set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, a restriction on the availability of Deadpool 2 to those of 16 years old and older is the lower restriction which can be applied in order to prevent injury to the public good.

Classification		
	R16	
Descriptive note to cover:	Violence, sexual references and offensive language.	
Excisions (if applicable)		
Dianlessachitis		
Display conditions (restricted	ed publications only)	
Are display conditions necessary?	Yes	
Reason for any display conditions:	No No	

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OFLC Ref: 1800196.000

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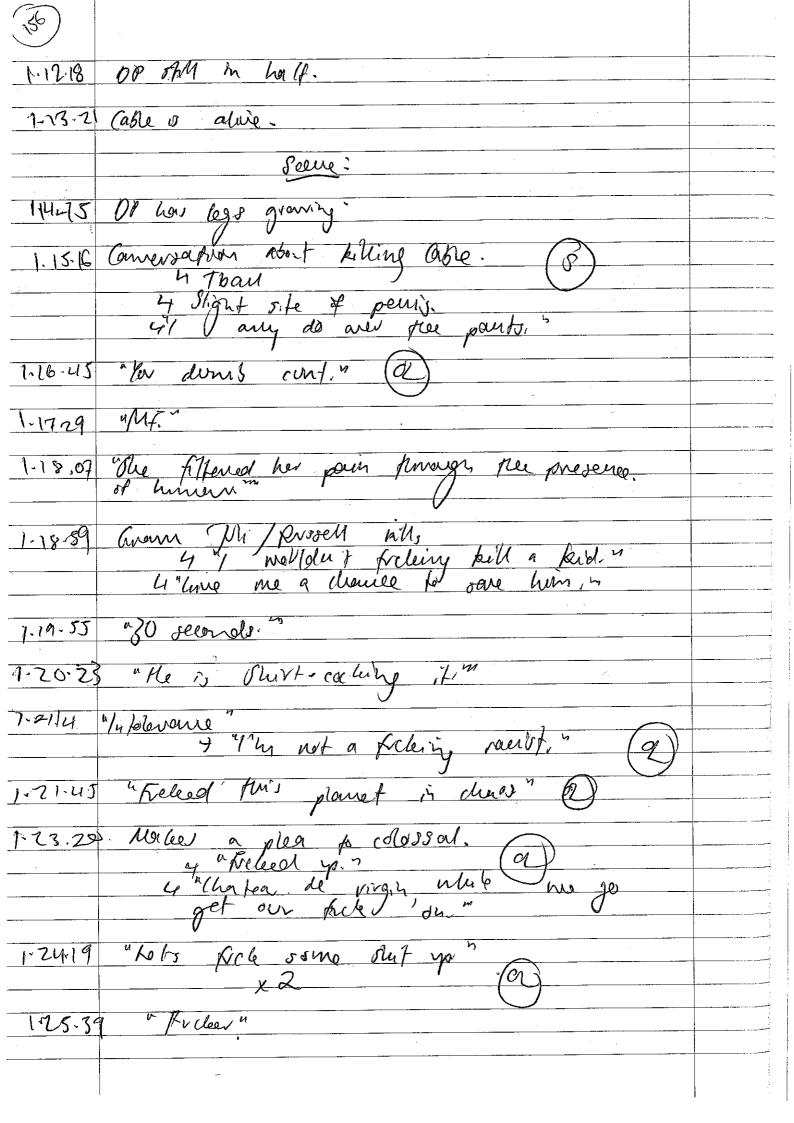


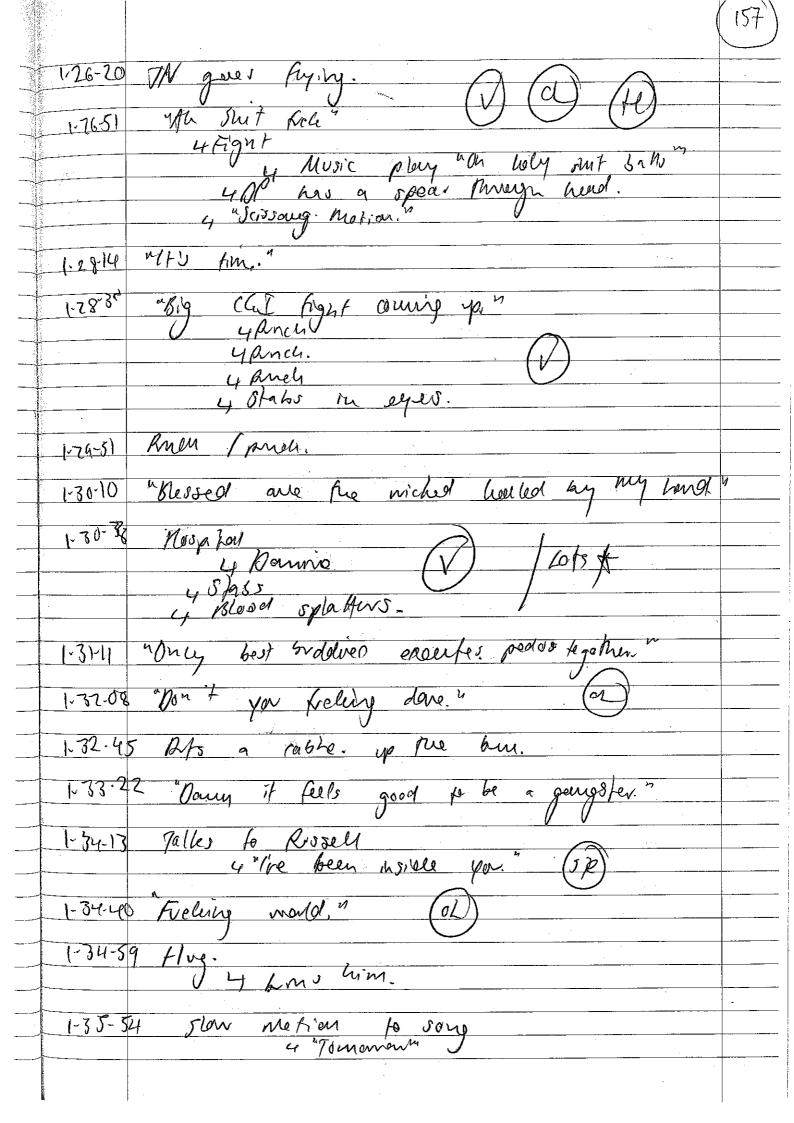
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32.04	"Take me to the ice box"	
32-45	"Oh fel :7." (02)	
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37·10	Head menster.	
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38:47	prole fize gun.	
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44-30	pus at pen statos.	
4 La 57.	Body is broken fran fulling.	
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46.21	"The name's cable- I'm from the fitme."	
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47.51	Booneray Starts. playing.	
48.5	4 Falls down, chill	
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	<i>y</i>	

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59-21	Spiel + starts - any, my.	
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1-36-40	Nade is killed / Slot in chest.	
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1-37.39	Took lef it happen?	
1 37-55	"That riddle is so feled up," (d)	
1-38.21	Dies - homer.	
1-39-00	Circ, a dy, no speech. 4 Fisch for ne. 7	
7.40.02	"R-dog." 14 "Ya re a sperhero nor." 4 For a sesond freere we made a pretty good fear."	
1-40-84	"It's so hard to go." Still alme Lo "Be you wount to build a more men."	
7·42·3	I 'I did home to some a kid." 4 /4 heavey.	
1.43.4	of "It's not time. You can't ofay. There's a time for s. It's not not now."	
1.44.55	"Kiss me like you miss me too." 4 Don't wek Gwis."	,
1-45-4	O' Rennight Jets The coin paole in 4 "I didn't do it fer you" 4 "Malex one the world olint".	
1.47.2		

