

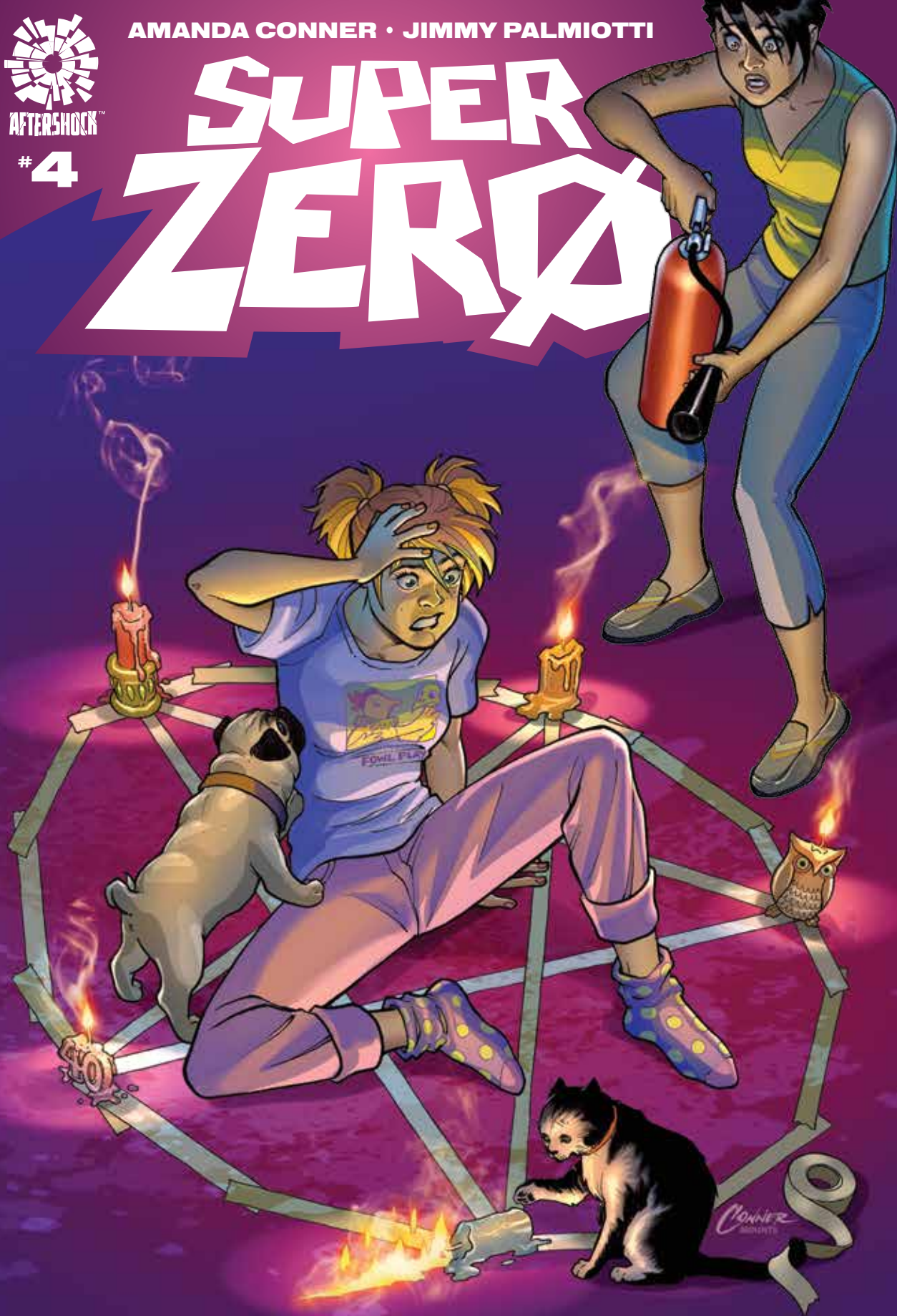


AFTERSHOCK™

#4

AMANDA CONNER • JIMMY PALMIOTTI

SUPER ZERO



RAFAEL DE LATORRE • MARCELO MAIOLO • JOHN J. HILL



Boy, this
sucks.



The last thing I remember was being struck by some kind of *light ray*, and now I can't move a *muscle*.



WHAT THE---

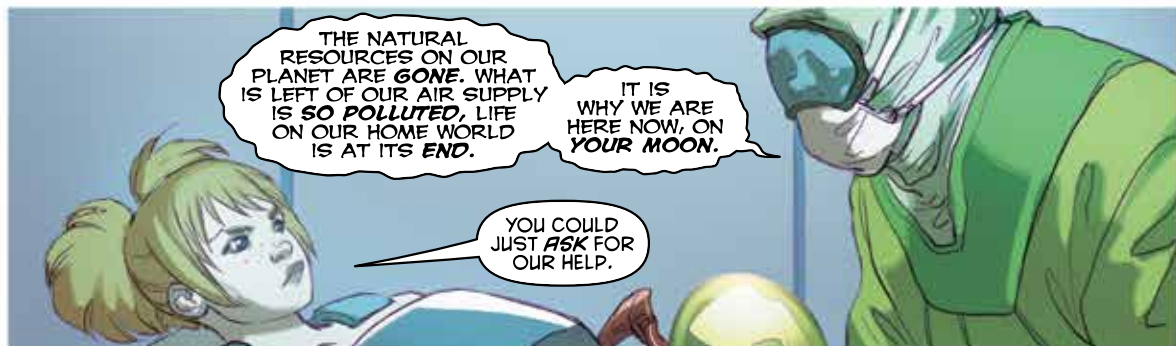
JEEZ. ALL I NEED NOW IS *GERT FRÖBE* STANDING OVER ME, TELLING ME HE *EXPECTS ME TO DIE!*

WE HAVE *SEEN* THE 1964 FILM ADAPTATION OF IAN FLEMING'S *GOLD-FINGER*. WE APPRECIATE THE REFERENCE.

THIS IS FAR FROM "OPERATION GRAND SLAM", *PALADINA*.



YES. WE *KNOW* WHO YOU ARE. WE ARE PLEASED YOU CAME TO VISIT US. WE COME FROM A PLANET A *GREAT DISTANCE AWAY*.



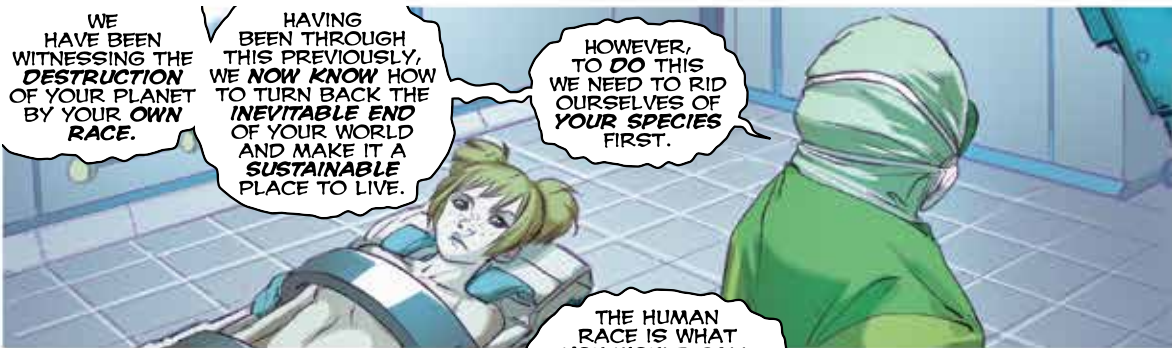
THE NATURAL RESOURCES ON OUR PLANET ARE *GONE*. WHAT IS LEFT OF OUR AIR SUPPLY IS *SO POLLUTED*, LIFE ON OUR HOME WORLD IS AT ITS *END*.

IT IS WHY WE ARE HERE NOW, ON *YOUR MOON*.

YOU COULD JUST *ASK* FOR OUR HELP.




WE ARE A DISTINCTLY MORE *EVOLVED RACE* THAN YOURS, AND IT HAS BEEN DEEMED A *BAD IDEA*.



WE HAVE BEEN WITNESSING THE **DESTRUCTION** OF YOUR PLANET BY YOUR OWN **RACE**.

HAVING BEEN THROUGH THIS PREVIOUSLY, WE **NOW KNOW** HOW TO TURN BACK THE **INEVITABLE END** OF YOUR WORLD AND MAKE IT A **SUSTAINABLE** PLACE TO LIVE.

HOWEVER, TO **DO** THIS WE NEED TO **RID** OURSELVES OF **YOUR SPECIES** FIRST.




THE HUMAN RACE IS WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A **CANCER**. WE WILL **REMOVE** IT, ALLOW THE PLANET TO **HEAL** AND MAKE IT **OUR** NEW HOME.




WE MUST DO THIS **PROPERLY**, WITHOUT DESTROYING THE PLANET BY WAY OF AN **ALL-OUT BATTLE**.

WE NEED INFORMATION THAT ONLY **YOU**, EARTH'S MIGHTIEST **HERO**, CAN SUPPLY US WITH.



WE HAVE **MANY QUESTIONS**. WE KNOW YOU WILL NOT **WILLINGLY** BETRAY YOUR SPECIES.

YOU WILL ONLY FEEL **TEMPORARY PAIN** AS WE DIRECTLY ACCESS THE INFORMATION.



PLEASE TRY TO TAKE **COMFORT** IN THE FACT THAT, WHILE YOUR SACRIFICE MAY **DOOM BILLIONS** AND **WIPE OUT** THE HUMAN RACE, IT WILL MOST ASSUREDLY **SAVE** YOUR WORLD.

NO! NO!
NO--

TAMPA, FLORIDA: 9:20 PM.

--OHH!

Oh.

That was
so real...

Can't afford to sleep
right now... I'm running
out of time, and there's
so much to do.

OKAY.
I'VE GOT
NO CHOICE
NOW.

TANA,
CAN YOU SNEAK OUT?
THERE'S SOMETHING
IMPORTANT I NEED TO
TALK ABOUT. MEET ME IN
MY BACKYARD IN
A FEW.

...NO,
A **DEMON** DIDN'T
FINALLY SHOW UP.
STOP WATCHING
ASH VS. EVIL DEAD
AND GET OVER
HERE.

WAX?
WAX!

YOU
GOT A
MINUTE?

SURE, KID.
BE **RIGHT**
OUT.

WHAT'S THE
EMERGENCY?

I'LL
EXPLAIN WHEN
WAX COMES
OUT.

YOU
STILL ITCHING
FROM THE ANT
BITES?

YEAH,
I STILL HAVE
A BUNCH ON MY
SIDE. THEY'RE
DRIVING ME
CRAZY.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

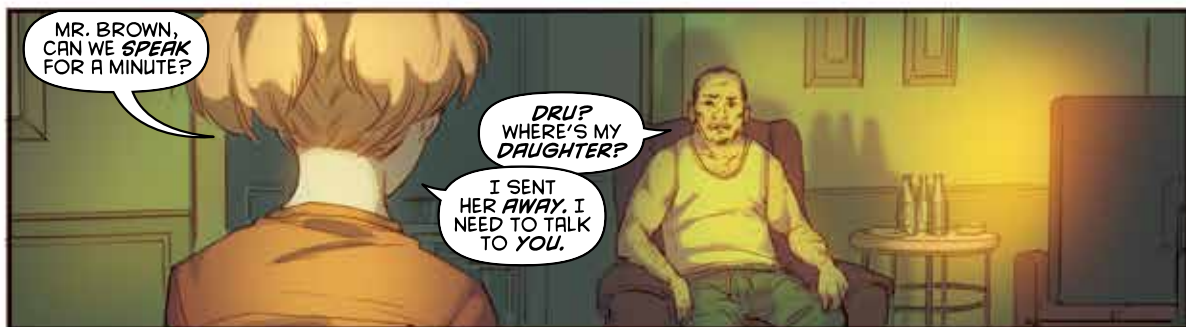
I'M
GOING ON A **TRIP**.
I WANT TO GET A
FEW THINGS **DONE**
BEFORE I LEAVE.

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING
WITHOUT **ME?**

WAIT...
IS THIS THAT
"GAMMA RAY"
THING?

DO
YOUR **PARENTS**
KNOW ABOUT
THIS?

CAN YOU
GUYS JUST **LISTEN**
FOR A SECOND?





WOULD YOU MIND TURNING OFF THE TV? BOTH OF US WILL BE ABLE TO **FOCUS** ON OUR CONVERSATION **BETTER** THAT WAY.

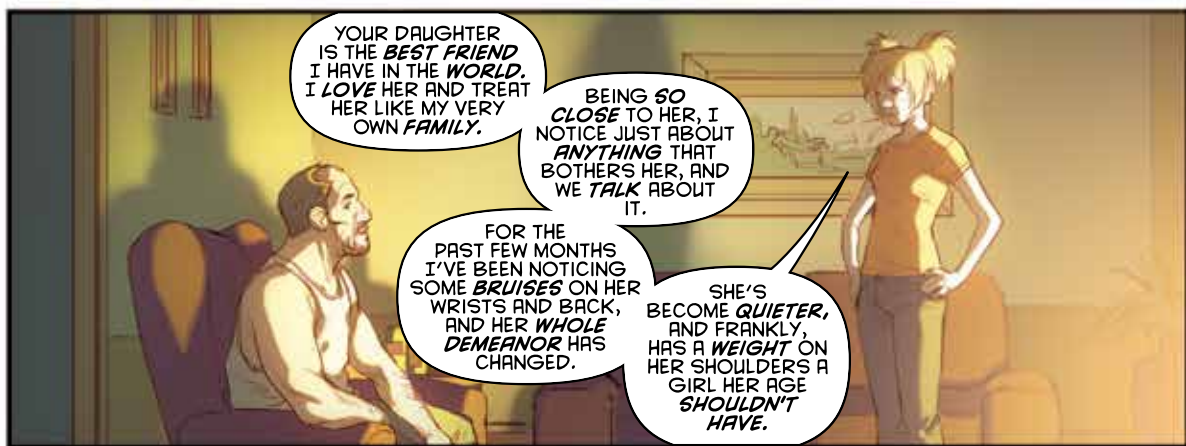
OKAY...



TV OFF.

WHAT IS IT?

THANK YOU. IF YOU CAN STAY SEATED, **THAT** WOULD HELP AS WELL.



YOUR DAUGHTER IS THE **BEST FRIEND** I HAVE IN THE **WORLD**. I **LOVE** HER AND TREAT HER LIKE MY VERY OWN **FAMILY**.

BEING **SO CLOSE** TO HER, I NOTICE JUST ABOUT **ANYTHING** THAT BOTHERS HER, AND WE **TALK** ABOUT IT.

FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS I'VE BEEN NOTICING SOME **BRUISES** ON HER WRISTS AND BACK, AND HER **WHOLE DEemeanor** HAS CHANGED.

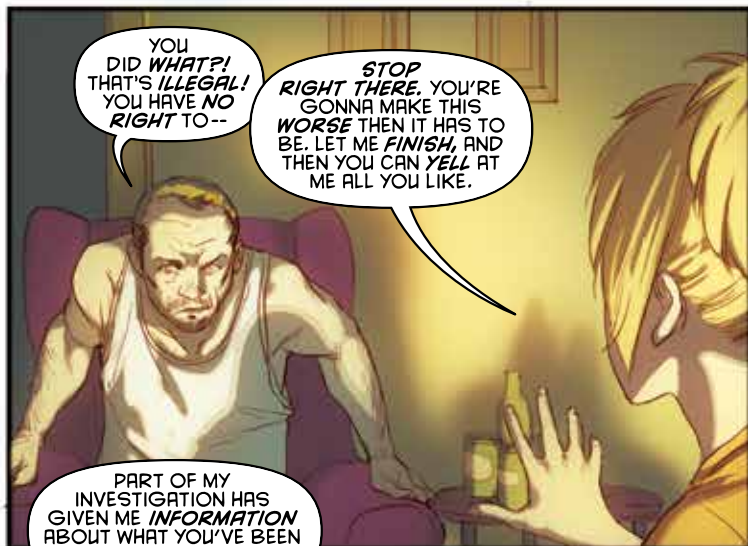
SHE'S BECOME **QUIETER**, AND FRANKLY, HAS A **WEIGHT** ON HER SHOULDERS A GIRL HER AGE **SHOULDN'T HAVE**.



I'VE TAKEN IT UPON **MYSELF** TO INVESTIGATE THE THINGS SHE WON'T EVEN TELL **ME**, AND I'VE FOUND THAT **YOU'RE** THE CAUSE OF HER STRESS **AS WELL** AS HER INJURIES.

I WENT AS FAR AS CAPTURING YOU GUYS ON **VIDEO** WITH A **HIDDEN CAMERA**.

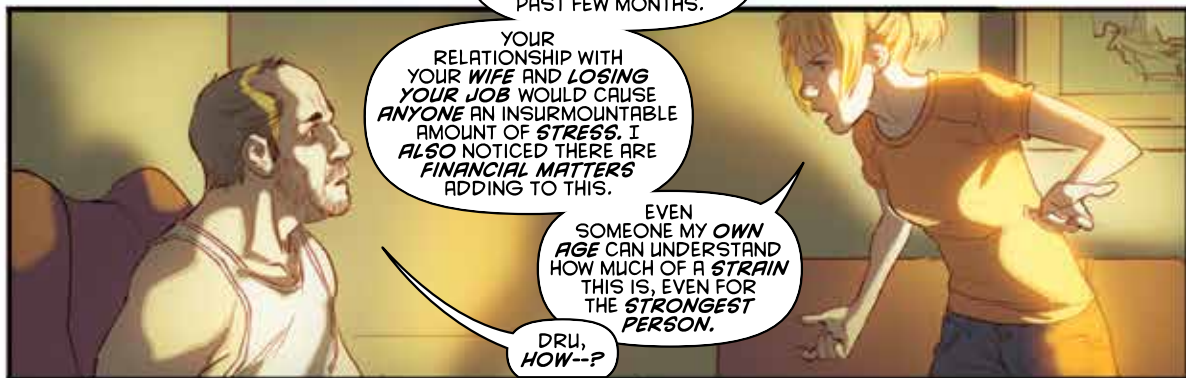
I SHOT FOOTAGE FROM THE WINDOW **BEHIND** ME.



YOU DID **WHAT?!** THAT'S **ILLEGAL!** YOU HAVE NO **RIGHT** TO--

STOP RIGHT THERE. YOU'RE GONNA MAKE THIS **WORSE** THEN IT HAS TO BE. LET ME **FINISH**, AND THEN YOU CAN **YELL** AT ME ALL YOU LIKE.

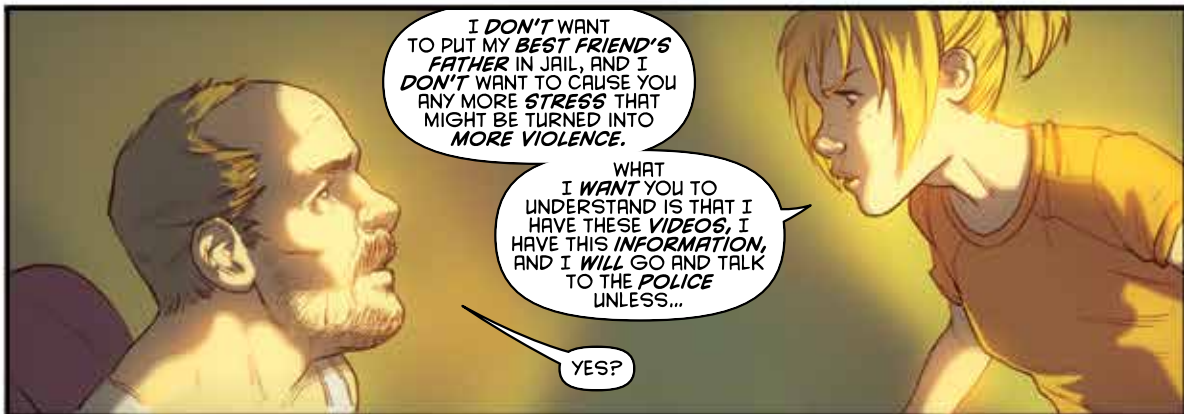
PART OF MY INVESTIGATION HAS GIVEN ME **INFORMATION** ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN **GOING THROUGH** THE PAST FEW MONTHS.



YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR **WIFE** AND **LOSING YOUR JOB** WOULD CAUSE **ANYONE** AN INSURMOUNTABLE AMOUNT OF **STRESS**. I **ALSO** NOTICED THERE ARE **FINANCIAL MATTERS** ADDING TO THIS.

EVEN SOMEONE MY **OWN AGE** CAN UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH OF A **STRAIN** THIS IS, EVEN FOR THE **STRONGEST PERSON**.

DRU, **HOW--?**



I **DON'T** WANT TO PUT MY **BEST FRIEND'S** FATHER IN JAIL, AND I **DON'T** WANT TO CAUSE YOU ANY MORE **STRESS** THAT MIGHT BE TURNED INTO **MORE VIOLENCE**.

WHAT I **WANT** YOU TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT I HAVE THESE **VIDEOS**, I HAVE THIS **INFORMATION**, AND I **WILL** GO AND TALK TO THE **POLICE** UNLESS...

YES?



YOU **STOP**.

NO MORE HURTING MY **FRIEND**. YOU GO GET **HELP**, OR AT THE **VERY LEAST** GET YOUR LIFE **TOGETHER** AGAIN.



ED... WHEN I **MET** YOU, YOU WERE A **SWEET, HAPPY MAN**. I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT MAN IS STILL **INSIDE** YOU.

MAKE THESE **CHANGES**, AND OUR CONVERSATION **NEVER** HAPPENED.



DON'T MAKE THESE **CHANGES** AND I'LL CALL THE **POLICE**, GET YOU **ARRESTED**.

AND IF BY **ANY CHANCE** YOU MANAGE TO DODGE GETTING CONVICTED AND COME **BACK** HERE, THE NEXT TIME YOU LAY A **FINGER** ON MY **BEST FRIEND** I'LL **KILL YOU MYSELF**.



DO WE **UNDERSTAND** EACH OTHER?