question What's your ideal night in?

Staff



Saran (Thai Thai Again)

On an ideal Friday evening, you'll find me holed up in my apartment, gorging on spicy chicken-andvegetable red curry, and watching *Glee* or *Buffy* reruns.



JOE (KEPT ON VAMPIN')

Video games, booze and bad movies. My Netflix queue is overflowing with boxoffice turds that must be watched!



Laila (KARAOKE NINJA)

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The Hot Seat

Neil Gaiman The British author draws on punk rock and Twitter for his inspiration. By **Sharon Steel**

became this,

like, sexually

transmitted

thing.**99**

You are very prolific. I imagine you typing for hours in a dark room, smoking cloves and emerging only to change your black T-shirt. That's definitely how it was, except

Sandman was all written late at night

written late at night in a cloud of cigarette smoke with tea and coffee being poured into me. I'm in an interesting world right now in which I've become

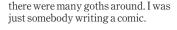
significantly less prolific since I got married [to the Dresden Dolls' Amanda Palmer] and fell in love. I'm having to figure out how to get back to being prolific without being an entity that sits in the dark.

Have you thought more about doing a sequel to your book *American Gods* in anticipation of the tenth-anniversary release?

American Gods, for me, was a way of making sense of America the first time, and I think if I go back and do American Gods 2, that will be my way of making sense of what America has become, post 9/11 and post post 9/11, a peculiar world in which some things have changed, some things are fragmenting, and some things have normalized. You have the smartphone generation with incredibly short attention spans. The Twitter generation. And a world of immediacy. All of that stuff is going in there. Probably along with Bigfoot.

How does it feel to be a goth hero and touchstone?

Very, very odd! But it's always so odd! I mean, I was a goth icon before



Sandman has introduced many girls and women to the world of comic books.

What was great about *Sandman* was you had a comic that guys would hand to their girlfriends and say, "Look, read this." And the girlfriends would read it and say,

"Have you got any more?" When the relationship would collapse, the girls would take the *Sandmans*, and they would hand them to their next boyfriend or their next girlfriend. Slowly, they became this, like, sexually transmitted thing. *Sandman* spread.

You once said that your biggest writing influence was punk rock—the idea that you could do something just by doing it.

It still is. You have to be willing to make mistakes, and you have to be willing to make mistakes in public. When I was 15 going on 16, punk rock, the idea of here's a chord, here's another, here's one more chord, now form a band, is one that always stayed with me. You have, you know, a million lousy words inside you, and you've got to get them out. Look at other people. Learn everything you can from everywhere. The most important thing is to do it.

Neil Gaiman speaks with Lev Grossman at the 92nd Street Y Tue 21. See This Week in New York. American Gods is out Tue 21.