

ROARIN' RICK'S

# RARE BIT FIENDS

#2



\$2.95 U.S.  
\$3.95 CAN.



NEIL GAIMAN

WILL HE **SAVE** THE WORLD  
OR **DESTROY** IT?

DETAILS  
INSIDE!

# CELEBRITY RARE BIT FIENDS

## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

As I think I mentioned in the first issue, I'm constantly twisting the arms of all my friends and fellow creators to get them to try doing their own dream strips. DAVE SIM was the first to come through with the sparkling "ZELDA CAFE" and a number of others are in the talking stage as I write these words. One of my prime targets all along has been NEIL GAIMAN, who is a decent artist in his own right, as well as being...well, you know...the author of the OTHER dream comic we all love so much. Neil had actually contributed a one pager to the original 24 HOUR COMIC that started all this RARE BIT FIENDS stuff, and I've reproduced it in the letters page from a three year old fax, which I found in the back of a drawer (the original artwork was lost by Neil). Neil was game to attempt some new material, and of course I was egging him on as much as I could without coming across like a DC editor, but the poor guy's schedule sounded so brutal I knew it was going to be a cold day in KING HELL before he ever had the time to actually sit down and draw again. So, during one of our marathon telephone shmooze fests, I suggested that it might be fun if I illustrated one of his dreams, and he liked the idea (strangely enough, even though Neil and I go back to my SWAMP THING days, we have never actually collaborated on anything beyond raw ideas!)

Sure enough, a few weeks later I received a fax with seven or eight of Neil's dreams written out. I roughed them into page layouts and faxed them back and we went over them, panel by panel, on the phone, Neil describing in detail what he remembered from the dreams, and me asking him for visual and emotional associations to flesh things out. The results surprised us both, I think, and will provide readers with a spooky, funny, and pretty damn accurate snapshot of what's going on in the subterranean sinkholes of the mind that has given us some of the best writing comics have ever seen. The good news is that there is enough material to carry over into next issue as well.

As the future CELEBRITY RARE BIT FIENDS, this certainly opens up some interesting new avenues to explore. I know a number of writers who don't draw, and I'll be trying to tempt them to share their nocturnal emissions in the same manner. (Hey, guys! These things write THEMSELVES!) Also, I'm going to start a little research to see if I can turn up actual dream accounts from historical personalities that might make interesting strips. Any sharp eyed readers who run into such material, please, send it on in!