



Vol. 1

OMNIBUS  
EDITION

PART  
ONE

1

# MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™



# OMNIBUS

TURNER • O'NEIL • WEEMS • SIBAL • SMITH • STEIGERWALD

ASPEN  
Vol. 1  
COLLECTED

# MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™



THERE ARE TWO WORLDS.  
THE ONE WE KNOW...

...AND THE ONE BELOW.

MICHAEL TURNER'S  
**FATHOM**

**F**athom began in 1998 with the publication of the Fathom Preview, but the full color world premiere was in Fathom 0. Released in May of that year, it introduced the world to Aspen Matthews and gave a glimpse into her life moments before it would be changed forever by the events to come. Chronologically, it was tied to 'our' world. It was two months before Aspen would leave for her assignment to the DMD facility, and issue 0 was released two months before issue 1.

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*story and pencils:* Michael Turner - *inks:* Joe Weems V

*colors:* Jonathan D. Smith, Steve Firchow, Richard Isanove, Peter Steigerwald

*letters:* Dennis Heisler - *additional colors:* Matt Nelson - *ink assists:* Marco Galli

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## FATHOM ZERO

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FATHOM TRADING CARD SET

*"Aspen"*



*pencils:* MICHAEL TURNER

*inks:* JON SIBAL - *colors:* PETER STEIGERWALD

*T*WO WORLDS  
EXIST ON THIS  
PLANET.



THE ONE  
WE KNOW.



AND THE  
ONE BELOW.

THE ONE  
WE KNOW IS  
FAMILIAR AND  
COMFORTABLE.

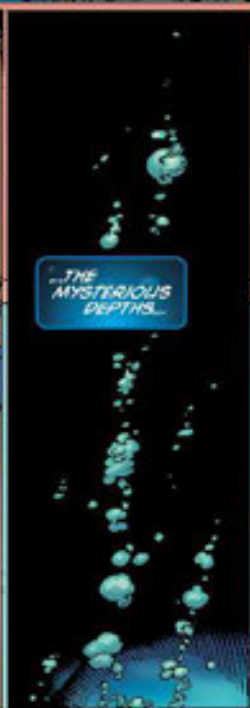
BELOW THAT  
PLACE LIES THE  
UNFAMILIAR AND  
DEFINITELY  
UNCOMFORTABLE  
DEPTHS THAT HOLD  
UNSPEAKABLE  
DANGERS.

MOST PEOPLE LIVE WITH  
A MYOPIC VIEW OF THEIR  
EXISTENCE. THEY'RE CONTENT  
WITH THEIR HOUSE, CAR, 2.5  
KIDS, POG, TV, PINNERS, AND  
OCCASIONALLY GETTING OUT  
TO SEE A MOVIE. THE RULES  
WERE LAID OUT CENTURIES  
AGO AND THERE IS NO NEED  
FOR THEM TO EXPLORE WHAT  
LIES BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES  
OF THIS COMFORTABLE  
PLACE.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND,  
AM FASCINATED BY WHAT  
LIES BEYOND "NORMAL"  
BOUNDARIES—WHAT'S  
BENEATH THE SURFACE...



...THE  
MYSTERIOUS  
DEPTHS...



...THE  
WORLD  
BELOW.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue one-piece swimsuit, stands on a sandy beach. She is holding a blue surfboard with a red and white design on the back. The background features a palm tree on the left, a bright sun setting over the ocean, and waves breaking on the shore. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue.

ELEVEN YEARS AGO,  
MY LIFE BEGAN.

I ARRIVED ON A SHIP  
WITH NO MEMORY OF  
WHO I WAS OR HOW  
I GOT THERE.

I BECAME  
ASPEN MATTHEWS,  
FOSTER CHILD NUMBER  
421-6.

FOR YEARS  
I STRUGGLED TO PIECE  
MY LIFE TOGETHER  
WITH FRAGMENTS OF  
DREAMS AND VISIONS  
OF MY LIFE AS  
A CHILD.

FROM MY TEENAGE  
YEARS OF SNORKELING  
AND SCUBA DIVING  
TO MY HIGH SCHOOL  
SWIM TEAM, TO  
OLYMPIC FREESTYLE  
SWIMMER, TO MARINE  
BIOLOGIST...

THROUGH IT ALL,  
ONE ASPECT OF  
MY LIFE WAS  
CONSTANT...

...I WAS  
FASCINATED  
BY WATER.


A man in a complex, futuristic, metallic diving suit stands in a deep-sea habitat. The suit is highly detailed with various mechanical components, including a large circular hatch on the back, multiple gauges, and a complex arm and hand mechanism. The habitat is composed of large, spherical, geodesic domes with circular openings, all illuminated with a blue-green light. The background shows a dark, rocky underwater environment with some bubbles.

THREE MONTHS AGO,  
IN THE MIDDLE OF SEVERAL  
EXPERIMENTS ON DEEP WATER  
MARINE LIFE PROPULSION  
ANATOMY, I WAS CONTACTED BY  
A DEEP MARINE DISCOVERY (DMD)  
FACILITY THAT WAS CONDUCTING  
SIMILAR EXPERIMENTS IN A TRENCH  
FIFTY MILES NORTH OF THE  
HAWAIIAN RIDGE.

THEY HAD BEEN  
BUILDING A HABITAT  
1200 FEET DOWN  
THAT COULD SUPPORT  
SCIENTISTS FOR  
MONTHS.

I'M NOT SURE  
WHY THEY CONTACTED  
ME, BUT I WAS HAPPY  
TO LET THEM SEE  
MY RESULTS.

I HAVEN'T  
SPOKEN TO  
THEM SINCE.



I HAVE NEVER BEEN  
DOWN 1200 FEET BEFORE.  
THE FURTHEST DOWN I'VE  
ACTUALLY BEEN IS 300, AND  
THAT WAS ON AN OBSERVATION  
SUBMARINE THAT WENT DOWN  
AROUND THE COAST OF  
SAN DIEGO.



BUT  
TO BE IN  
AN ACTUAL  
HABITAT.

...WHERE I COULD  
OBSERVE FOR WEEKS  
WITHOUT HAVING TO  
PUT ON MY SCUBA  
GEAR DAY AFTER DAY.



I CAN ONLY  
IMAGINE HOW  
INCREDIBLE IT  
WOULD BE TO SEE  
WHAT EXISTS AT  
THAT DEPTH.



I DO KNOW THAT SOME OF  
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SPECIES OF  
MARINE LIFE LIVE THERE, ALL  
WITH UNIQUE ADAPTATIONS  
UNSEEN IN SHALLOW WATERS...