

MARVELS SERIAL—CHAPTER TWO
SUB-MARINER
By Richard Ashcraft

BASED ON MARVEL COMICS' GOLDEN-AGE HEROES

Written in 2012.
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ALL-AMERICAN GIRL
It's okay, Otto.

He forces himself to look at her.

ALL-AMERICAN GIRL (CONT'D)
I know what you mean. The Marvels
are everywhere these days. So
some people must consider us
yesterday's news.

OTTO
Well, these stories will change
their minds.

He opens his briefcase and looks through the paper-clipped
pages. Then he pulls one set out and hands it to her.

OTTO (CONT'D)
Here is the script for the
Sub-Mariner.

She starts to read it.

ALL-AMERICAN GIRL (V.O.)
If only I could tell him the
real story.

VILLAIN TWO (V.O.)
Everyone, be quiet! She's
focusing all her thoughts on
Namor!

EXTREME LONG SHOT - THE OCEAN - DAY

The Oracle Ship sails over the water.

SUPER: THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, WINTER 1919

INT. THE SHIP'S BRIDGE - DAY

LEONARD MCKENZIE is the captain. He is a tall, muscular man with
jet-black hair and beard. He steers the wheel while he looks at
the compass in his hand. He smiles and puts the compass in his
coat pocket.

EXTREME LONG SHOT - ATLANTIS - DAY

It is a beautiful undersea city. Various MERMEN and MERMAIDS swim about the place. They all look like ordinary human beings except for their blue skin, pointed ears, and webbed feet.

FEN

She is the most beautiful mermaid. She swims towards Atlantis when a large shadow is cast over her. She looks up.

HER POV

The Oracle's hull is shown under the water.

LEONARD

He smiles in contentment. Then he hears a loud, fast-moving noise. He looks up and gapes in horror. A bright orange light shines on his body.

LEONARD

Saints preserve us!

THE ORACLE SHIP

A giant meteorite crashes into the sea next to it. The impact creates a massive tidal wave. It engulfs and overturns the ship.

ATLANTIS

The meteorite crashes into the city, destroying it, and killing its citizens.

FEN

She is swept back by the tidal wave. Then she is struck by some debris. She bleeds as she is swept away by the powerful current.

LEONARD

He treads water. Then he sees an island in the distance.

LEONARD

Thank God!

FEN

She is blinded by the sand stirred up in the water. She swims to the surface.

EXT. THE ISLAND'S SHORELINE - DAY

Leonard collapses on the sand and passes out. The water splashes his body, but he does not wake up.

Fen soon comes out of the water. She sees Leonard. She is very intrigued. She bends down and feels his throat. She faintly smiles. Then she easily lifts him up and carries him away.

EXT. THE ISLAND'S LAKE - DAY

The unconscious Leonard lies in the shade. Fen washes the blood away from her shoulder while she cries. Leonard groans and wakes up. She looks at him. He sees her and gasps.

LEONARD

Oh, Dear Lord.

FEN

(slowly imitates him)

Oh. Dear. Lord.

EXT. THE ISLAND'S SHORELINE - DAY

The shaggy-bearded Leonard has a fire going. He sees Fen in the water with two huge fish in her hands. He scowls at her.

LEONARD

Fen! There you are!

FEN

Hell low, leh nerd!

He stands up and walks into the water. She awkwardly walks over to him. Her large baby bump quickly becomes obvious. He makes her lean on him.

LEONARD

You need to rest! You do not leave this island again!

She waves the two fish in his face as they leave the water.

FEN

Baby needs food!

LEONARD

(sighs)

I know! I just wish I could be
the one getting us food!

FEN

You cook. Food tastes better.

She kisses his cheek. He smiles.

FEN (CONT'D)

I thank you.

She stops some distance away from the fire. She hands him one of
the fish. He struggles to take it to the fire. Fen giggles as
she carefully sits on the sand.

LEONARD

He sits by the fire. He uses a sharp seashell to cut his beard.
It does trim his beard, but it also nicks his face. Then he
looks to the ocean. What he sees astounds him.

HIS POV

A ship is off in the distance. It heads straight for the beach.

LEONARD (V.O.)

Fen! Fen!

THE LAKE

Fen and the nude BABY swim. The baby has Caucasian skin, black
hair, and pointed ears. Leonard runs to the shoreline.

LEONARD

Fen! I saw a ship!

FEN

Ship?

LEONARD
We're going to be rescued!

FEN
Rescued? No! No!

She gets the baby and swims to Leonard.

LEONARD
Fen? What's the matter?

She holds the baby as she quickly leaves the lake. She points to her face.

FEN
Blue! Not white! Blue!

She hands him the baby.

LEONARD
You listen to me!

FEN
You take Namor! You raise him!
(now teary-eyed)
In Merry Kah!

LEONARD
No! We're staying together!

FEN
I search my people! Some could
live! Not let Namor in sea!
Danger!

LEONARD
I'm not abandoning you!

FEN
Only way! Not white! Not belong
on land! Go! Namor safe with
you! Go! Now!
(finally cries)
Please, leh nerd!

He does not know what to do. Then he gives her one long, final kiss goodbye. She gives Namor a motherly kiss. He cries like he will never see her again. This breaks her heart.

LEONARD

Fen, listen to me!

She looks at him.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

We'll come back here! Every year! You will see us again!

FEN

Come back here?

LEONARD

Remember the stars! When Pisces is in the sky, come back here! Do you remember what Pisces looks like?

FEN

Yes! Pisces fish in stars! Go now!

LEONARD

Goodbye, Fen! And don't worry! I'll take good care of Namor!

He reluctantly takes the baby away. Fen covers her face and totally breaks down.

INT. A SHIP'S CABIN - NIGHT

The clean-shaven Leonard wears new clothes. He lies on a bed with the baby tucked in blankets. The baby pulls on Leonard's finger. Leonard tries to pull it away, but the baby easily holds onto it. Leonard looks at his son. Then he smiles.

LEONARD

You've got your mother's ears and strength.

(with a smirk)

And your father's good looks.

The baby giggles as he lets go of Leonard's finger. Leonard then caresses the baby's hair.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

Namor McKenzie, it looks like
you got the best of both worlds.

THE OLDER FEN

She has barely aged. She paces the island's shoreline during the night.

SUPER: FEBRUARY 1939

NAMOR (V.O.)

Mother!

She turns around, but she does not see her son.

NAMOR (V.O. CONT'D)

Mother, I am up here!

Fen looks upward. She gapes in awe at what she sees.

THE SWIMSUIT-CLAD NAMOR

Her fully-grown son hovers in the air. The full moon is behind him like a halo. He smiles in delight.

FEN (V.O.)

Namor?

NAMOR

Yes, Mother! I have returned!

FEN AND NAMOR

He lands in front of her. She hugs him for several seconds. Then she gazes into his eyes.

FEN

Oh, Namor! Son!

She looks at his body and feels his back.

FEN (CONT'D)

But you flew? Without wings?
How?

NAMOR

(with a shrug)

I inherited my telepathy from
you. I guess my half-human blood
also gave me telekinesis.

FEN

Tell a . . . kin . . . nieces?

NAMOR

It is another psychic ability
of mine. It allows me to fly
and lift heavy objects.

He smiles and flexes his arm muscle.

NAMOR (CONT'D)

I'm very strong now.

FEN

That is incredible. Where is
Leonard?

Namor looks away. He cannot bear to tell her the news.

NAMOR

Mother, I'm sorry. Dad-Dad is
not . . . not coming back.

FEN

Leonard . . . died?

He nods his head. Her eyes tear up. He holds her shoulders and
looks at her.

NAMOR

He died in his sleep. He didn't
feel any pain.

FEN

No pain?

NAMOR

None.

FEN

Thank Poseidon he did not suffer.
Leonard was a very nice man.

NAMOR

He was the best.

FEN

I am glad that he was your
father. I only wish that he
had been my husband.

NAMOR

So do I, Mother.

FEN

(forces a smile)
But at least you came back.
We are together again.

NAMOR

Yes, Mother.

FEN

(now beams)
And this is the perfect time!
I found some of my people!

NAMOR

What? They survived?

FEN

Some did! They now live in New
Atlantis!

She points to the ocean.

FEN (CONT'D)

There!

He looks in that direction.

NAMOR

Mother, we've got to go there!

FEN

We are going! Now! Follow me!

She runs into the ocean. He quickly follows her. They dive into the water.

THE UNDERSEA FEN AND NAMOR

They swim very quickly at first, but he takes her into his arms. Then they are propelled through the water. They smile at each other.

FEN (V.O.)

Tell a kin nieces?

NAMOR (V.O.)

Yes, Mother!

FEN (V.O.)

We are moving so fast!

NAMOR (V.O.)

We could move faster if we were flying! But Father made me swear not to fly in public! Americans are very nervous right now! They're scared about the war in Europe!

A GERMAN U-BOAT

It is underwater. It fires a torpedo.

RESUME FEN AND NAMOR

They are in the foreground. They see and hear an explosion in the background. He is puzzled. She is horrified.

FEN

No! Namor!

He pours on the speed. They zoom to the background.

THEIR POV

The small Atlantis colony is destroyed. SHARKS feast on the BLUE CORPSES.

RESUME FEN AND NAMOR

They are not swimming. She is devastated by the destruction. He takes it in when a SHARK attacks them. Namor releases his rage by punching its nose with all of his might. The shark shatters into pieces.

A TORPEDO

It speeds toward Fen and Namor. She sees it about to strike him. She pushes him out of the way. It hits her instead and blows her up. Namor is rocked away by the shock waves. Then he turns and sees what has happened to her. His blood boils.

NAMOR (V.O.)
MOTHER! NOOOOOOOOOOOO!

He grimaces with rage as he faces where the torpedo came from.

HIS POV

The U-Boat fires another torpedo.

RESUME NAMOR

He curves around to avoid the torpedo. It explodes behind him. Namor rides the shock waves to his target.

THE METAL HULL OF THE U-BOAT

Namor slams into it. He pounds the wall until it buckles. Then he grabs the edge and rips the panel off.

INT. THE U-BOAT

The GERMAN SAILORS yell and try to escape the waves of water.

THE MINIATURE U-BOAT

It slowly sinks to the bottom of the ocean.

NAMOR

He swims through the sunken U-Boat to make sure that everyone is dead. After he has seen enough bodies, he swims away.

EXTREME LONG SHOT - NEW YORK CITY BY THE HARBOR - NIGHT

Namor flies out of the ocean and into the city. He yells very loudly in anger all through his flight.

EXT. A NEW YORK CITY STREET - NIGHT

Namor lands in the road, much to the surprise and horror of the DRIVERS and PEDESTRIANS. They wear 1930s clothing. They stare at Namor. He glares back at them.

NAMOR

What are you looking at? Are you looking at the freak? The damn freak of nature? The last of his kind! Well, I'll give you something to really look at!

He lifts an empty car over his head. He is about to hurl it away when he hears:

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Sir! Put! It! Down!

Still holding the car, Namor turns around and sees BETTY DEAN. She is a 20ish policewoman. She aims her gun at him.

BETTY

Sir! I don't know how you're doing that, but it's scaring these nice people!

FEN (V.O.)

Leonard was a very nice man.

BETTY

But hey! That's okay! I can let it go! We can just chalk things up to a little misunderstanding! Are you with me?

LEONARD (V.O.)

Son, I couldn't bring your
mother with us. People just
wouldn't understand.

BETTY

Please don't make me use this!
You haven't reached the point
of no return! Just talk to me!
I'll help you out in any way
that I can!

Namor has tears running down his cheek. He awkwardly puts the car down, much to everyone's relief. Betty does her part by putting her gun in its holster. Then she approaches him. He covers his face as he breaks down.

BETTY (CONT'D)

I'm Betty Dean. Who are you?

NAMOR

I'm . . . I'm Namor . . .
Namor McKenzie!

BETTY

Namor. What happened to you?

He composes himself enough to quickly say his next two lines.

NAMOR

I saw my mother die tonight!
She was killed by the Nazis!

He completely breaks down. She embraces him. He cries on her shoulder.

BETTY

Let it out, Namor. Just let it
all out.

He keeps on crying, but he does hug her back.

ALL-AMERICAN GIRL AND OTTO

She finishes reading the script. She smiles at Otto.

ALL-AMERICAN GIRL
I'd use this one. Namor falling
in love with Betty Dean is . . .
close to the truth. And Namor
did gain his super-powers from
Poseidon.

ALL-AMERICAN GIRL (V.O.)
In a roundabout way.

VILLAIN TWO (V.O.)
Now they're talking about the
girl we wanted to . . . see.

VILLAIN ONE (V.O.)
Oh, her. She would have been a
great prisoner of war.

OTTO
Did Namor and Betty ever fall
in love?

ALL-AMERICAN GIRL
They were at one time. But they
lost touch with each other after
the war. Like so many other people.

OTTO
That's too bad.

He hands her another paper-clipped set of papers. He smirks.

OTTO (CONT'D)
But this will make you smile.
The secret origin of Captain
America.

She reads a few pages. Then she is puzzled.

ALL-AMERICAN GIRL
The shield of Lancelot?

To be continued in CAPTAIN AMERICA.