

### Chapter 3: The Executioners' Attacks

Hours passed since Utan and the others had the party. The next day, Utan heard the alarm ring and it was 7 AM.

Utan: 7 AM; good. (he gets up out of bed and sees that Komane, Kilitia and Samari were in the shower together.) Excuse me, ladies!!

Samari: Pervert!!

Komane, Kilitia and Samari threw some empty bottles at him – forcing him to flee.

Utan: (sees Kohaku.) Do not go in there! (feeling shocked and scared.)

After a few minutes after Komane, Kilitia and Samari got out of the showers and Utan took a bath, he heads downstairs to see how everyone was feeling.

Utan: Hi, ladies.

Samari: Hello, perv.

Utan: Look, Samari. I didn't know you were in there with my sisters.

Komane: It's alright, Samari.

Samari: Sure it is.

Utan: Whatever. Other than that, I have to go see how the Steel Blossoms are doing now that Master Rex is there with them – full time.

Komane: They should be fine by now.

Then, Hisui appears with seven plates with shrimp and grits.

Utan: Shrimp and grits? (he tastes it and he was impressed.) It's refined and delicious; who made this? Maiya?

Hisui: It was actually Kohaku.

Utan: (he visibly knew it was Maiya Uzuki.) Ok. Let me go on ahead finish this so I can see the Steel Blossoms in action. Nemo Uga, do you want to come along with me?

Nemo Uga: Sure.

Minutes passed. Utan and Nemo Uga arrive at Navarre's Meta-Human Lab. But before they could enter, they see two women at the front gate. It was Rouge and Sapphire.

Sapphire (Sophia B. Rosencrantz) – she was a former member of Mage Corps as Ugoh's Color Guards. She has blonde hair, blue eyes and wears a sleeveless one piece dress with red trimmings at the bottom, dark brown opaque hosiery and white short go-go boots.

Rouge: Well, if it ain't the ugly duckling. What brings you two here?

Utan: We're here to see Rex and the Steel Blossoms.

Sapphire: Do you have a permit to see them?

Utan: Uhh, yes, I do. (he gets out Akisora's permit from last night.) Here you go, ma'am.

Sapphire: (checks it.) Ok, you're clear to enter. Welcome to Navarre's Meta-Human Laboratory; I hope you'll enjoy your stay here.

Utan: Ok, Nemo Uga. Let's go inside and see Rex.

Sapphire: It seems like you have an interest in Dr. Navarre.

Utan: Of course, I was able to defeat Ugoh; I just came to see how he's feeling.

Rouge: Are you sure it isn't something else that peaked your interest in him?

Utan: No. It's come to what I expect of him; he's a scientist and an alchemist everyone likes. Where is his office?

Nemo Uga: What about Kei and Akisora? You wanted to see them in action, didn't you?

Rouge: They haven't made it here yet; they should be here at noon. (sees Rex and his assistant, Subaru Miyamoto.) Dr. Navarre.

Rex: Utan. What a surprise.

Utan: I'm sorry for what happened last Friday with Kei and Daisuke Aotomo.

Rex: It's alright; you did a good job protecting Kei. At least be thankful for that.

Utan: You're welcome.

Nemo Uga: This seems odd. A majority of those meta-humans aren't meta-humans. How were you able to have these meta-humans stay as a human?

Rex: It's too complex for you to understand. I had to study really hard to understand how the human body works; and to top that off, I had to study meta physics to enhance the human body.

Utan: Didn't you know that he received a doctorate degree in metaphysics when he was 35 years old?

Nemo Uga: Oh, wow! I didn't know that Rex was a super genius.

Utan: Well, now you know.

Nemo Uga: I would like to see what this facility produces.

Rex: No problem; Sapphire, show Nemo Uga what's in this place.

Sapphire: Ok. Come, Nemo Uga.

Sapphire shows Nemo Uga around the facility.

Rex: Now that you're here, I would like to speak to you about your power gauntlet and your gems you were able to maintain.

Utan: For what?

Rex: I've done some research on your Power Gauntlet and the gems. Somehow you had other people Luvia, Miyako, Azaka, Touko, Satsuki and even Sakura become auxiliary currents for those gems.

Utan: They have? (looks at the Power Gauntlet.) Is it a problem?

Rex: It can be; you need to be extremely cautious on who you make as an auxiliary current. If not, someone may use those auxiliary currents against you.

Utan: (thinking about his fights against Miyako, Luvia and Touko.) I was under the ropes against them. But hey, it's a good thing I have this gauntlet; otherwise, I would have died without it.

Rex: That's all I wanted to talk to about. Let me go on and enhance my Golden Arm.

Utan: What are you doing to it?

Rex: Reinforcing and refining it.

Utan: Ok; has Akisora and Kei made it in yet?

Rex: Sure. Just go to the natatorium and wait for them; Sophie should be there, as well.

Utan: Ok, thanks for everything, Dr. Navarre.

Meanwhile in the dressing room, Akisora and the rest of members of the Steel Blossoms were changing into their one-piece swimsuits. This group consists of Makoto Inoue, Naoko Inoue and Kei Amano. Kana Asakura and Miki Moriya is a part of the group but they had some stuff to take care of. Then, Subaru appears to see them.

Makoto: Hi, Ms. Miyamoto.

Subaru: Hello. Have you guys seen Miki around?

Naoko: I have no idea where she is.

Subaru: I guess she's getting into trouble again at school. I swear that girl's a troublemaker.

Akisora: Don't worry about it too much; she'll show up eventually.

Subaru: Fair enough. Anyway, hurry up; we got some guests in our facility.

Makoto: Who are they?

Subaru: Utan Matou Enhada and Nemo Uga Mason.

Naoko: Great, this guy.

Makoto: What's wrong, sis?

Naoko: Want to talk about a troublemaker; Utan's five times as worse as Miki.

Akisora: And that's bugging you? Come on, Naoko; you're too quick to judge people. I heard that you were skeptical about how he handled himself holding a summer camp here. I would have done the same thing.

Naoko: . . . . .

Makoto: Ok, sis. You need to chill out; now's not the time for you two to be fighting.

Naoko: Fine. Let's go.

Makoto and Naoko leave the dressing room. Kei was feeling embarrassed to come out.

Akisora: Coming, Kei?

Kei: No. Utan scares me.

Akisora: You have no reason to be scared of him; just try to harden your will. You can't be scared of him forever.

Kei: Thank you, Akisora.

Meanwhile at Shiki Tohno's school, he was taking a History exam. For some apparent reason, he was feeling weak. Luckily, he was able to finish the exam. He goes up to the teacher to be excused; the teacher was an American and a substitute.

Substitute Teacher: Now what?

Shiki: I'm not feeling well; can I be excused?

Substitute Teacher: What? Again?! (looks at the students.) Alright, you can go home. But, try not to make a habit out of this, Mr. Tohno.

Shiki: Thank you. (leaves.)

Shiki Tohno left the classroom, but Satsuki was concerned about him – provoking the teacher.

Substitute Teacher: What's the matter, Ms. Yumiduka?! Want to join him?!!

Satsuki: No. My last name's Yumizuka.

Substitute Teacher: Whatever. I guess all of you are dismissed when you're finished with the test.

Meanwhile outside Misaki Town's city limits, two members from the church were on a search to find Utan. (Mount Hermes and Artemis) They were from the same faction from Juri Haran. Mount Hermes was getting hungry.

Hermes: Man, I'm starving. I knew we should have crashed Utan's Halloween party.

Artemis: For what? There were just too many people there; besides that, we're following Judas's orders to lay low for the time being.

Hermes: So, was Juri able to find something?

Artemis: No, she just got through beating up some low-level vampires.

Then, Seo Akira appears.

Akira: Who are you guys? You're not from around here.

Hermes: Of course we're not. I was wondering where I can find Utan Enhada. I heard that he's been a very bad boy.

Akira: Why is he bad? He saved us from the Angra Maniyu, ten months ago.

Hermes: He did? Wow!! I'm actually impressed that you're friends with this man. Thanks a lot; I guess that we have to find him the hard way. There's no way that this child knows who Utan is. Bye, girl.

Akira knew that those two were troublemakers. Meanwhile at Haruki's location, she was ready to eat lunch until she senses an unearthly presence. It was Mount Hermes and Artemis.

Hermes: Well, hello there, pretty girl.

Haruki: Who are you guys?

Artemis: You must be Utan's apprentice. I was wondering where he is.

Haruki: Why do you want him for?

Hermes: Other than the obvious, we're here to kill him and all of his associates - especially you.

Haruki: (feeling scared. thinking silently.) These are Church officials. I thought Utan was branded by them; no, they're from a different faction. I have to inform Master Utan. (speaks.) I'm sorry to disappoint you but I have to go. (runs away.)

Hermes: (feeling annoyed.) Ohh, I hate it when they run. Artemis, slow her down.

Artemis fires a magic arrow at Haruki's left ankle and she was unable to move. Utan felt an abnormal surge from his Reality gem - Haruki was in trouble. Utan wasted no time trying to rescue her.

Hermes: Good job, Artemis. (approaches Haruki.) So, are you going to tell me where your master is or I'm going to have to break your bones?

Haruki: You won't find him through violence. He's a lot smarter than you.

Hermes: (feeling annoyed and angered.) You little brat!! I should just - - - -

But before he could attack her, Shiki Tohno attacks Mount Hermes. He was able to cut through Mount Hermes three times but he was feeling weak on his feet. Then, Mount Hermes kicked him straight into a building.

Haruki: Shiki!!

Hermes: Now with that punk out of the way, where were we?

Before he could attack Haruki, someone fires a Phoenix Bullet straight at Mount Hermes face. It was Komane.

Hermes: More delays?!! What's up with you guys? I didn't know that you three fools want to die, today.

Komane: No, you are. You have to be ashamed of yourself for attacking these people.

Hermes: What's it to you? I doubt that you're powerful than me. I'll take my time with you. (licks his lips.) You have an interesting body. Why won't I work it out for you? (laughs.)

Komane: Go to hell!

Komane and Mount Hermes fight for a minute. As soon as Komane tried to kick him in the face, Mount Hermes catches her in a bear hug. Komane was struggling to break free.

Hermes: See, what did I tell you? Now, it's time for me to give you a painful massage.

Komane: No! Let me go! (feels that his grip was becoming stronger and he was trying to humiliate her.) NOO!!!

Hermes: Yeah that's right! Snap, crackle and pop! (laughs maniacally.)

Then Artemis senses someone. It was Arcueid.

Artemis: Hermes, look out!

Arcueid grabs Hermes by the hair and punches him straight into a wall and in the face.

Hermes: Why do people always hit me in the face? (see that it was Arcueid.) Oh, it's you. I have no interest in you; it's Utan I want.

Arcueid: Why? The Church has already branded him as a heretic.

Hermes: (shocked and surprised.) He has? Since when? It doesn't matter; we're going to kill him and there's nothing you or the Church will do about it!!

Then, Artemis senses Utan and Nemo Uga coming after them.

Artemis: Change of plans, Hermes. Let's retreat.

Hermes: Ok. Ninja Vanish!!

Hermes used a smoke bomb so that he and Artemis could escape. Utan used Saber Lily's weapon as a fan to blow away the smoke, but they escaped.

Utan: (sees Haruki.) Are you alright?

Haruki: Yes, I can't get up.

Utan: Don't worry; I'll remove the arrow from your ankle.

Utan was able to absorb the magic particles from Artemis's arrow and succeeded. But when he tried to heal her, he was unable to.

Haruki: What's wrong?

Utan: I can't heal you. I'm guessing there was something in that arrow causing me to nullify my healing abilities.

Arcueid: How long is that going to last?

Utan: At least, thirty minutes. It looks like I'm going to have to take her to Caster for healing.

Then, Akisora appears with Utan's SUV.

Akisora: Need a lift?

Utan: Uhh, yeah.

Arcueid: Who's she?

Utan: It's kind of a long story, Arcueid. Come on, you guys; let's go back to the mansion.

Utan and the others were able to make it to the mansion for Caster to heal Haruki's left ankle. Then, Kana Asakura appears outside the front gate.

Kohaku: Who's that?

Komane: Kana! This isn't good.

Kohaku: Are you going to let her in? Who is she?

Komane: Haruki's older sister and she was a member of the Steel Blossoms.

Kohaku: Wow.

Hisui: I'll let her in to see Haruki. Open the gates, Kohaku.

Kohaku opened the gates and allowed Kana inside the mansion. As you can see, Kana was not amused by what happened to Haruki. Then, Utan appears with Haruki; he was shocked to see her.

Utan: What a surprise. I'm sorry for what happened to your sister.

Kana: Save it for somebody who cares.

Haruki: Kana, please. It wasn't my fault; those people were powerful than me. I was trying to flee to Utan.

Kana: Sure you were. Just be grateful that Utan and Caster were able to heal you; you would have been unable to walk if it wasn't for them.

Utan: Look, Kana. I don't know why you continue to offend me by insulting my servant and one of my students. If I wanted to, I'll put you out of your misery.

Kana: I wonder what's keeping from doing that. Your gauntlet?

Komane: That's enough you two. Kana, aren't you happy that your little sister fine?

Kana: No, but I'd like to give Utan a fair warning about any harm on Haruki. I will kill you if anything happens to her.

Utan: I understand, Kana.

Kana: Come, Haruki.

Haruki: I'm sorry for troubling you, Master Utan.

Utan: It's alright; just go home.

Kana and Haruki left the mansion. As they were walking, Shiki Tohno backed off from them as they were walking too fast.

Akiha: Who were those people you brought in?

Utan: Friends. Kana and Haruki Asakura. So how are you feeling, Shiki?

Shiki: I'm fine for now.

Satsuki: Shiki.

Utan: Try not to worry too much about Shiki's ailments. I keep forgetting that he has been training with Touko and Ryougi Shiki on controlling those mystic eyes of his. That maybe why he's feeling exhausted.

Satsuki: Do you have any idea who would want to attack Shiki randomly?

Utan: I'm trying to put two and two together; it just isn't adding up - in my opinion. I just had a long day; I'll try to come up with something tomorrow.

Hours passed; it was 1 AM and Utan and the others were asleep. But Utan felt an abnormal surge coming from the space gem.

Utan: What the hell is this? (his pinkie finger was pointing outside.) Huh? Outside?

Utan opens the window from his room and sees a woman wearing a mask. He wasted no time to confront her; after thirty seconds, he was able to unmask the woman. Utan was shocked to see that it was Yugri's disciple, Juri Haran.

Utan: Juri? What the hell are you doing here?!

Juri: I'm here to put an end to your misery.

Utan and Juri Haran fought. After two minutes, Juri was gaining the upper hand; she was using Utan's space gem to steal Utan's reinforcement technique to penetrate through Utan's defenses. Utan was feeling dizzy.

Juri: What's the matter, Utan? Feeling banged up?

Utan: No. I'm about to bang you up.

Then, Nemo Uga appears with Idris's Magnum.

Nemo Uga: Utan. (looks at Juri Haran.) Stop or I'll shoot!

Utan: No, you fool.

Nemo Uga fired at Juri Haran, but she used Utan's space gem to stop time. When she left, time reverted. The bullet hit a tree and Utan had to divert the tree from falling on the mansion by using the Tsuiho-Ha.

Nemo Uga: She got away. Damn it.

Utan: You idiot! I had her. You want to know why you're not ready it's all because you're not a team player.

Nemo Uga: You were getting your ass kicked by her. What did you want me to do? Watch her beat you up?

Then, Akiha, Hisui, Kohaku and Maiya Uzuki appear.

Akiha: What's going on?

Utan: It was just a false alarm; I'm going back to sleep. (heads upstairs to his room.)

Akiha: What happened, Nemo Uga?

Nemo Uga: Someone was able to bypass Kohaku's security system.

Kohaku: How is it even possible?

Akiha: Who was it?

Nemo Uga: Another one of Utan's friends, I guess. (yawns.) I guess Utan may know who that person was that did this. I'm going to sleep. (heads upstairs.)