



# the avengers

starring

PATRICK MACNEE  
as John Steed

and

DIANA RIGG  
as Emma Peel

in

"TOO MANY CHRISTMAS TREES"

by

TONY WILLIAMSON

In which Steed hangs up his stocking --  
and Emma asks for more . . . .

Cast also includes:

Brandon Storey.....MARVYN JOHNS  
Dr. Felix Teasel.....EDWIN RICHFIELD  
Janice Crane.....JEANNETTE STERKE  
Martin Trasker.....ALEX SCOTT  
Jenkins.....ROBERT JAMES  
Jeremy Wade.....BARRY WARREN

directed by ROY BAKER  
produced by JULIAN WINTLE



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Episode entitled:  
"TOO MANY CHRISTMAS TREES"  
Synopsis

## "TOO MANY CHRISTMAS TREES"

by

TONY WILLIAMSON

In which Steed hangs up his stocking - -  
and Emma asks for more....

-short synopsis-

Christmas takes a sinister turn for Steed when he is plagued by a vivid, recurring nightmare. At a country house party with Emma he finds reality more frightening than the nightmare.

-detailed synopsis-

Christmas takes a sinister turn for "THE AVENGERS" when Steed is plagued by a vivid, recurring nightmare. Featured as a corpse in this frightening dream is an agent and one-time colleague, Freddy Marshall, with whom Steed shared exclusive knowledge of top secret information.

Steed's dream becomes reality when he learns of Freddy's sudden death in mysterious circumstances, his mind having collapsed from overstrain.

In an effort to divert Steed, Emma Peel invites him to accompany her to a festive house party at the mansion home of Brandon Storey, an eccentric publisher obsessed with Dickens.

On arrival at Brandon's Folly, Steed finds himself in surroundings identical to those of his nightmares. Unwittingly, Emma has led Steed into a trap; it is revealed that two other house guests, Martin Trasker and Jeremy Wade, are bringing dangerous, telepathic influences to bear on Steed's mind. The experiment misfired with their previous victim, the ill-fated Freddy Marshall.

Apparently unaware of the plot, Steed is induced into a deep sleep by the mind-benders, and into a "Tale of Two Cities" nightmare in which he figures as Sydney Carton, taunted at the guillotine by a dark, mysterious woman. As the blade crashes down, Steed awakes in a state of shock, heightened by the arrival of another house guest, Janice Crane - the dark beauty of his dream.

contd.....

Then, when Brandon Storey holds a Dickensian-style, Christmas Eve party in fancy dress, Emma is allocated an Oliver Twist outfit, while Steed - it would seem, inevitably - gets the Sydney Carton clothes of his dream.

At the height of the celebrations, Storey announces that Janice Crane will entertain with a mind-reading act. Janice - who has proved herself party to the deadly mind-benders - selects Steed as her assistant.

The game is a cover for the mind-benders to attempt the last, dangerous stage of their experiment to extract the secret information from Steed's mind. As the 'game' progresses, Emma becomes alarmed at Steed's strange behaviour. She deliberately drops a glass to shatter the evil spell.

Emma now sets out to put a stop to Steed's strange delusions, but, in so doing she walks into a living nightmare of her own. First, Jeremy Wade, full of grave misgivings about his part in the experiment, is on the point of talking to Emma when he is murdered.

Then, believing that Steed is fast approaching a complete mental collapse, Emma turns in desperation to another guest, Dr. Felix Teasel. She soon regrets this move, because she begins to suspect that Teasel is also in on the plot, but no sooner has she knocked him insensible than she learns that Steed has been a willing victim to the mind-benders all along, and that Dr. Teasel was, in fact, working with him. They had hoped to learn the motives of the mind-benders and the identity of the master mind.

Now Steed - once again his debonair self - and Emma stand alone against the sinister forces. They hunt down the mind-benders in their secret apartments, and learn that Brandon Storey himself is the brain behind the circle.

After an all-out fight in a hall of distorting mirrors, THE AVENGERS finish off the telepathic powers of the group for good, and ride away from the mansion determined to recapture some of the old Christmas spirit in happier surroundings.