



the avengers

starring

PATRICK MACNEE
as John Steed

and

DIANA RIGG
as Emma Peel

in

"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW"

by

BRIAN CLEMENS

In which Steed becomes a gentleman's gentleman --
and Emma faces a fate worse than death

Cast also includes:

Hemming THORLEY WALTERS
Benson JOHN LE MESURIER
Group Captain Miles DENIS QUILLEY
Major General Goddard KYNASTON REEVES
Brigadier Goddard HOWARD MARION CRAWFORD
Vice Admiral Willows HUMPHREY LESTOCQ
Sergeant Moran EWAN HOOPER
Squadron Leader Hogg LEON SINDEN
Barber DAVID SWIFT
Reeves NORMAN SCACE
Walters PETER HUGHES

music by LAURIE JOHNSON

directed by BILL BAIN

produced by JULIAN WINTLE

Diana Rigg's Wardrobe designed by JOHN BATES



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"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW"

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BRIAN CLEMENS

In which Steed becomes a gentleman's gentleman --
and Emma faces a fate worse than death ...

- short synopsis -

When Steed suspects that a group of Gentlemen's Gentlemen are operating a spy-ring that is gaining vital defence secrets he decides to join the 'club'. Meanwhile, Emma employs her female charms to test one of the suspects - and almost suffers a fate worse than death in the process! With the help of an ancient General, the two agents finally discover what the butler really saw.

- detailed synopsis -

In search of information, Steed goes to see his barber - a known double agent. The man tells him that someone at the War Office is selling secret defence plans, and that the traitor might be one of the three men - Admiral Willows, Brigadier Ponsonby-Goddard and Group Captain Miles.

Content, Steed settles back to enjoy a hot towel or two while the barber attends to another customer. Steed is rudely disturbed when the gown covering him is pulled away, to reveal the barber's body slumped beside him with a pair of scissors sticking from his chest. The other customer's chair is empty.

Dressed in full Naval 'rig' and sporting a beard, Steed goes to see Admiral Willows. He soon realises that the testy old officer is determined not to get involved in any kind of work while there's a race meeting to hold his interest.

At Brigadier Ponsonby-Goddard's home, Steed, now in Army uniform, presents himself as a P.R.O. from the War Office. He meets Major General Goddard - the Brigadier's ancient and half senile father - who accuses his son of treachery. Before Steed can garner information to substantiate the old man's charge, the Brigadier interrupts, and Steed observes that he is a heavy drinker.

When Steed mentions the General's accusations, the Brigadier nervously laughs it off by saying the charge is a result of his failure to join a cavalry regiment as all his forbears had done. The interview comes to an abrupt end when the Brigadier pleads illness.

As Steed leaves he hears Reeves, Goddard's butler, making arrangements with someone on the 'phone to meet in the Brigadier's study much later that night.

From one of Group Captain Miles' aides, Steed learns that the R.A.F. officer is dedicated to his work. Only one pastime shares his attention - girls! Well informed sources suggest that the Group Captain can't resist a pretty face.

continued

After arranging for Mrs. Peel to test the Group Captain's susceptibility, Steed hurries off to share the rendezvous between Brigadier Goddard's butler and the mysterious telephone caller. He arrives too late. The butler is dead. Steed manages to withstand a savage attack, but cannot prevent the murderer's escape. From the garden he watches the discovery of the body by the Brigadier and his father. Solemnly the old man raises a bugle to his lips and sounds 'Last Post'.

'Operation Fascination' against Group Captain Miles is begun. Emma arranges for photographs of herself to be planted all over the Group Captain's house and office. Everywhere he goes or looks, there is Emma's likeness. Soon Miles is fascinated - to the point of desperation! When they finally meet, the Group Captain is even more fascinated, and a dinner date is arranged.

When he hears that replacements for the Admiral's missing butler and for the dead Reeves, have come from the Butlers' and Gentlemen's Gentlemen Association, Steed goes off to investigate the organisation.

Armed with phoney references, he enrolls as a student. Recognising the Principal as Hemmings - butler to Group Captain Miles - Steed learns that the man's work at the Association is part time.

Hemmings is well-pleased with Steed's progress as a student, but another instructor - Benson, butler to Admiral Willows - isn't so happy. He's convinced that he has seen Steed somewhere, but can't recall the occasion.

In the course of his investigation, Steed learns that Hemmings has refused a handsome 'offer' to leave Miles' staff.

Later Steed is caught by Benson while searching the laundry, where he has found Hemmings taking a bath - in an electric washing machine! Benson tells Steed that he recognises the references as fakes, but goes on to offer Steed the opportunity to make a great deal of money - as Hemming's replacement on Group Captain Miles' staff.

Steed starts work with the Group Captain in time to welcome Emma. While he prepares the aperitifs, his 'master' prepares to go into action. Emma has to keep her wits about her in dealing with the apparently amorous officer. With the help of Steed, who repeatedly interrupts the 'game', she manages to hold Miles at bay. At the same time she discovers that he is not the man they are after. He is not only as honest as the day is long, but he's fed-up with having to play the gay lover.

While his 'master' is away at a Defence Conference, Steed receives instructions to spill wine over Miles' uniform as soon as he returns. Mystified, Steed follows his instructions to the letter. Taking the stained uniform to the kitchen, he is met by Benson who orders him to hand it over.

With Emma's help, Steed follows Benson to the Association Building. They arrive too late to catch Benson, but do find three three torn uniforms - one Naval, one Army and one R.A.F. - and three tiny tape recorders. They realise that the missing tapes must contain recordings of the Defence Conference.

Their search of the building ends when they are caught by Benson and Sergeant Moran - an Army barman from the Three Services Club - who admits to being leader of the gang.

Benson is about to carry out Moran's orders to eliminate the two agents, when a bugle call rings through the building, and they hear General Goddard's shouted order to charge.

In the confusion that follows, Steed manages to disarm Benson, while Emma takes care of Moran.

When the dust of battle settles, the General explains that he became suspicious when he saw Benson 'mucking about' with his son's uniform.

Content with a job well done, Steed and Mrs. Peel take-off in a helicopter towards the bright horizon.