



the avengers

PATRICK MACNEE
as John Steed

and

DIANA RIGG
as Emma Peel

in

"HOW TO SUCCEED...AT MURDER"

by

BRIAN CLEMENS

In which Steed becomes a perfect boss --
and Emma goes seeking charm...

Cast also includes:

Mary Merryweather SARAH LAWSON
Sara Penny ANGELA BROWNE
Gladys Murkle ANNE CUNNINGHAM
Liz Purbright ZEPH GLADSTONE
Henry Throgbottom ARTRO MORRIS
Joshua Rudge JEROME WILLIS
J.J. Hooter CHRISTOPHER BENJAMIN
Sir George Morton KEVIN BRENNAN
Barton DAVID GARTH
Jack Finlay ROBERT DEAN
Annie SIDONIE BOND

music by LAURIE JOHNSON
directed by DON LEAVER
produced by JULIAN WINTLE

Diana Rigg's Wardrobe designed by JOHN BATES



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Episode entitled:
"HOW TO SUCCEED... AT MURDER"
Synopsis

"HOW TO SUCCEED... AT MURDER"

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In which Steed becomes a perfect boss --
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- short synopsis -

The world of commerce is suddenly threatened by the murder of ten city business men and an anxious Ministry sends THE AVENGERS to investigate. Steed acquires a secretary and Emma a bracelet, both of which have fatal charms, before they uncover a cell of lethal suffragettes.

- detailed synopsis -

When ten top city executives are murdered within a few days, THE AVENGERS are called in to investigate.

Steed is puzzled: the only common factor is the prominence of the victims in commerce, but alone that could hardly be the motive. Embezzlement is ruled out after the murder of Sir George Morton, for Steed checks with Morton's accountant, Joshua Rudge, that everything is in order.

The murder of executive Jack Finlay, however, gives Steed a lead. In the car where Finlay's corpse is discovered, there is a heavy scent of perfume that reminds Steed of Rudge's office. Attempting to search the office that night, Steed is attacked and knocked out.

Meanwhile, Emma collects a sample of the perfume in a foot-pump and presents it to perfumer extraordinaire, J. J. Hooter. Hooter identifies it as one of his exclusive perfumes and promises to prepare a customer's supply list for Emma that afternoon. When she returns, Hooter is dead and his secretary, Gladys Murkle, has taken charge of the business. Murkle refuses to help Emma.

Gladys Murkle's promotion, however, suggest a link between the murders. Checking, THE AVENGERS discover each of the victims had a complex office system only their secretaries could understand. In each case, the executive's death had meant the secretary's promotion.

continued....

Action is called for and Steed calls at Rudge's office. His secretary, Sara, explains that Rudge is away on an extended holiday and, in the meantime, she is in charge of the business. Steed uses his opportunity and introduces himself as a millionaire who is looking for a part-time secretary to help him in the evenings to set up a new business. Sara accepts the bait.

Meanwhile, Emma becomes a secretary. Her employer is Mary, formerly Sir George Morton's secretary. Following her one night, Emma discovers that Mary attends a 'Keep Fit Class for Young Ladies', run by a certain Henry and Henrietta Throgbottom.

Emma informs Steed and next day joins the class while Steed unearths an interesting fact: Henrietta Throgbottom died in 1939.

Emma soon impresses Mary with her efficiency and is invited to attend the advance classes at the gymnasium. She accepts and discovers they are a cover for a group of modern suffragettes intent on the 'ruination' of all men.

The group meet in a room off the gymnasium. On the walls are photographs of Henrietta taken in the days when she was a ballerina. She is the leader of the group but never actually attends the meetings. Instead, she is represented by a life-size doll sitting close to an alcove. The doll, however, speaks, the voice appearing to come from the alcove. Henry is present at the meetings, but the women treat him as a menial.

Just as Emma is about to be accepted by the group, Gladys Murkle enters and immediately recognises her. Emma now presents the group with a new problem: they have never killed a woman before.

Meanwhile, Sara makes her attempt on Steed's life. She fails and Steed, through his expertise in the art of tickling, forces her to reveal all about the group. He hurries to the gym.

In the fracas that follows, Steed liberates Rudge, who was imprisoned by the group because of his accountancy skills, saves Emma and finally exposes Henrietta.

"She" is Henry. He had formed the group in bitter memory of the ruin business men had on his late wife's career as a ballerina. The illusion of her voice was a matter of simple ventriloquism.