



# the avengers

starring

PATRICK MACNEE  
as John Steed

and

DIANA RIGG  
as Emma Peel

in

"THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT"

by

BRIAN CLEMENS

In which Steed takes a wrong turning --  
and Emma holds the key to all .....

Cast also includes:

Professor Keller ..... MICHAEL GOODLIFFE  
Burton ..... GRIFFITH DAVIES  
Withers ..... MICHAEL WYNNE  
Pennington ..... KEITH PYOTT

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

Diana Rigg's Wardrobe designed by JOHN BATES



# the avengers

Episode entitled:  
"THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT"  
Synopsis

## "THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT"

by

BRIAN CLEMENS

In which Steed takes a wrong turning --  
and Emma holds the key to all...

- short synopsis -

Emma believes she is a woman of property, but discovers too late that she is the prisoner of a monstrous machine created by a dead man. While she struggles to fight her way out of the imprisoning house, encountering on the way a panorama of her past, Steed tries to reach her in time for rescue.

- detailed synopsis -

When Emma Peel is informed that a mysterious Uncle Jack has died and left her a country house, she cancels a lunch with Steed and goes to inspect her new estate.

Puzzled by his friend's sudden good fortune, Steed calls Mrs. Peel's solicitor. His fears are confirmed; the solicitor denies knowledge of Emma's 'Uncle Jack' or any legacy. Quickly Steed makes a second call to his 'friends'.

Emma's journey is interrupted by a strange character called Withers. Dressed in a scoutmaster's uniform the man begs a lift, saying that he will be satisfied with Emma's destination.

Mrs. Peel finds the house brooding, dark and empty.

Going to the study, she finds papers strewn all over the desk. They carry the printed heading of her solicitor, and several sheets bear evidence of forged signatures. A telephone rings, but when she answers she hears nothing but asthmatic breathing, before the line goes dead.

As she hurries from the study, she is terrified to see the hall has disappeared! In its place is a kind of perpetual motion machine with

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corridors apparently leading off in several directions. Turning to return to the study, she finds that it has been replaced by more corridors. She is at the centre of a maze!

When Steed's second call to his 'friends' produces no news of Mrs Peel, he decides to follow her to the house.

Meanwhile, Emma is having a hard job maintaining her nerve. Whichever way she goes, she ends up in the same place~in front of the perpetual motion machine.

When she finds a Scout shoulder flash, she is convinced that Withers is her captor, and makes a determined effort to find a way out.

The silence is broken by a series of strange noises. A quiet, sinister laugh, the shuffles of feet, the tinkling of a musical box. In desperation, Emma starts to run - and suddenly finds herself back in the study. She finds Withers. He is dead.

Emma examines the door, and finds a small plugger in the frame. This, she reasons, must activate some form of machinery when the door is closed. She presses it and the whole place starts to spin.

In another room Emma sees a huge photograph of herself. Under it is a sign which reads 'Welcome to an Exhibition to The Late Emma Peel'.

A strange voice interrupts the silence, to inform Emma that she will find the answer to the riddle in the exhibition. Searching as directed, Emma finds newspaper coverage of her life. Her take-over of her father's industrial empire after his death. Her success, and the dismissal of Professor Keller, the company's automation expert, with whose plans for the replacement of men by machines Emma has disagreed. Suddenly, Emma recognises the voice. It is Keller's!

The voice tells Emma that she is prisoner within a house that is in fact a huge machine. It is, says Keller, the justification of his theories.

In trying to get away, Emma breaks into what appears to be a machine room. Seeing a man she thinks is Professor Keller, she challenges him. After a ferocious fight, she sees that the man is, in fact, another prisoner - terrified, emaciated, and completely mad.

While Steed speeds towards the house, Emma attempts to interrogate the man, but learns nothing. Suddenly, he makes another attack on her, this time with a shotgun. Mrs Peel manages to divert the shot, and knocks him out. Then she sees that where the shot has damaged the wall the outline of a door is revealed. Quickly, she breaks into what is apparently the central control room.

She is greeted by Keller's voice, and sees his face on a large screen. The voice tells Emma that her discovery will do her no good, that the voice she hears is a recording, and that he, Keller, is dead. Breaking through the screen, she finds the body of Keller sitting inside a large glass case.

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Keller's voice continues to tell Mrs Peel that the house is the justification of his theories. It is, he says, a vast indestructible machine from which she can't escape; a machine that will take care of her every need, which will still be functioning when she is quite mad. Release will come only when she uses the key provided to gain access to a special suicide box.

After a brief hysterical outburst, Mrs Peel forces herself to think logically. Finally, she settles on a plan and goes in search of the madman.

She demands shotgun shells, and from the one she gets from him, she fashions a 'bomb'. She is about to put it into effect when the man rushes into another attack. He is killed when he falls into the suicide box prepared by Keller for Emma.

Using her 'bomb', Emma upset the computer that controls the machine. For a while the machine goes berserk, then it suddenly shudders to a halt. A door quietly opens and Emma leaves the room to find a worried Steed standing in the hall. As The Avengers cycle away on a tandem, Steed tells Emma that Withers was one of the 'friends' sent to keep an eye on her .