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Q & A PUZZLE



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KEY TO SYMBOLS

$\pm$	White stands slightly better
$\mp$	Black stands slightly better
$\pm$	White is better
$\mp$	Black is better
$+-$	White has a decisive advantage
$-+$	Black has a decisive advantage
$=$	equality
∞	unclear
$\overline{\infty}$	with compensation
$\rightarrow$	with an attack
$\uparrow$	with initiative
$\rightleftarrows$	with counterplay
$\odot$	zugzwang
$\#$	mate
$!$	a good move
$!!$	an excellent move
$?$	a weak move
$??$	a blunder
$!?$	an interesting move
$?!$	a dubious move
$\triangle$	with the idea
$\square$	only move
$\frown$	better is
$\oplus$	time
N	a novelty
(ch)	championship

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Jungle of Chess Tactics!

As a professional player, I know how much these skills are important in a daily fight for one point (or half).

More than often, that overcomes some “understanding” and “knowledge”.

The ultimate goal is to finish a good game with an awesome combination.

But must admit, still more you appreciate the games when salvation comes "undeservedly", from an equal lost or dead position. Just wham, boom, counterstrike, and odds are turned. One of the ingredients that turn this game into pure magic.

This book features 550 carefully selected puzzles. All of practical games played in 2021. Lot of examples, major part, are duels between GMs. Including major chess stars such as Caruana, Giri, MVL, Mamedyarov and of course Carlsen.

Thus, the player can put themselves in perspective and try to play like the big ones, at least for a part of the game. However, don't be hard on yourself or the players. Due to the pandemic, huge percent of the games were played online, under fast time control.

In addition, certain solutions are clearly visible only for powerful engines. The hope remains that after seeing such, which will be stored in our subconscious and, perhaps, carried out by some of us in the future!

Examples are graded from easy (one star) and up (five).

Wish you a pleasant time with this work, as I had compelling all of that.

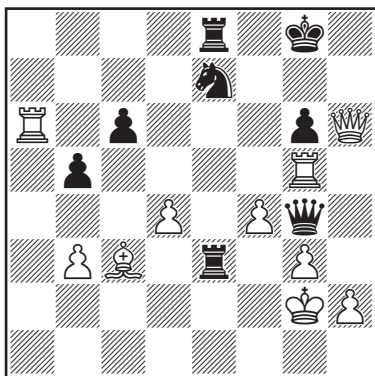
GM Ivan Ivanišević

Q & A PUZZLE

February 2021

41.

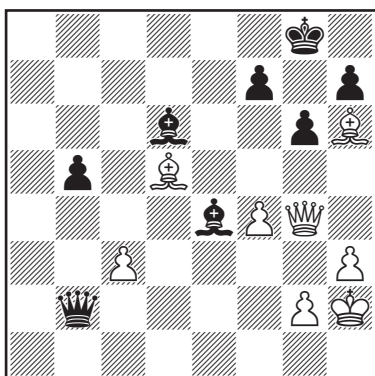
A. PASHIKIAN 2606 –
S. SARGSYAN 2596
Armenia 2021



1...? —+ ★★★

43.

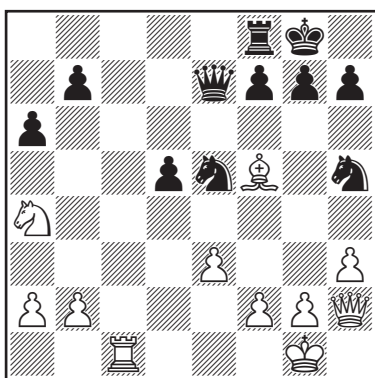
N. BUKSA 2419 –
P. MAGHSOODLOO 2676
Ville d'Orsay (blitz) 2021



1...? = ★★★

45.

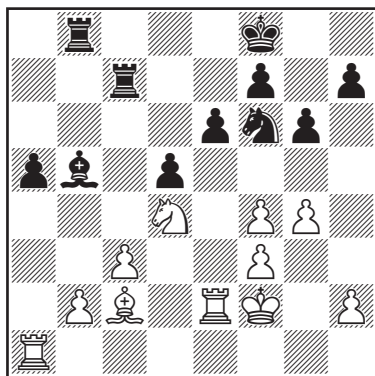
A. SALAKHOVA 1875 –
V. GUNINA 2427
Moscow 2021



1...? —+ ★★★

42.

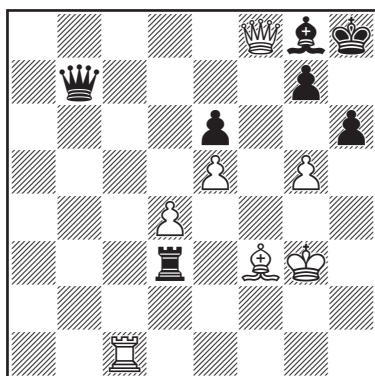
A. GIRI 2764 –
V. ANTONENKO 2391
World Corporate (blitz) 2021



1. ? +- ★

44.

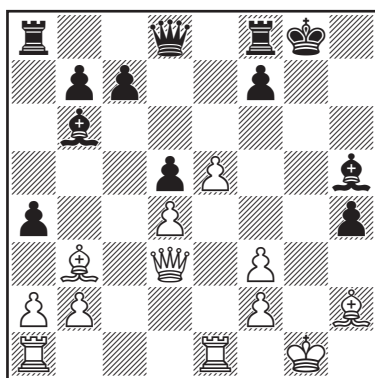
W. SO 2770 –
J. DUDA 2743
Opera Euro (blitz) 2021



1. ? +- ★★

46.

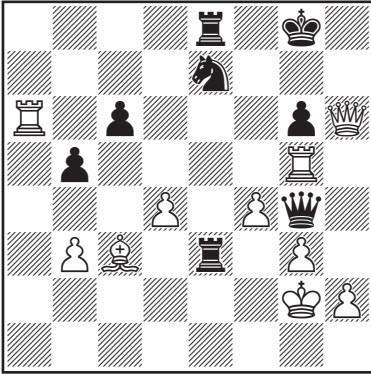
M. CARLSEN 2862 –
W. SO 2770
Opera Euro (rapid) 2021



1. ? +- ★★★★★

41.

**A. PASHIKIAN 2606 –
S. SARGSYAN 2596**
Armenia 2021



1... ? –+

★★★★★

Both sides are on the attack, but Black moves first. Marvelous combination follows.

1... ♖f3!

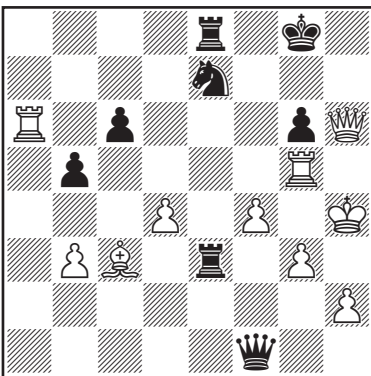
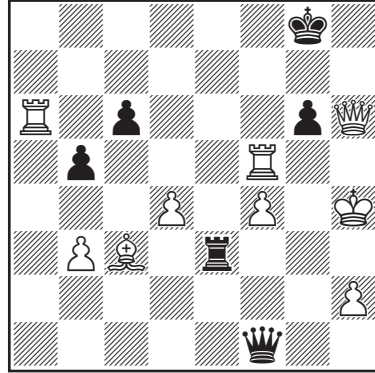
1... ♖e2? 2. ♔g1 ♗f3 3. ♖g6 ♘g6
4. ♗g6= A. Pashikian – S. Sargsyan.

2. ♔h3

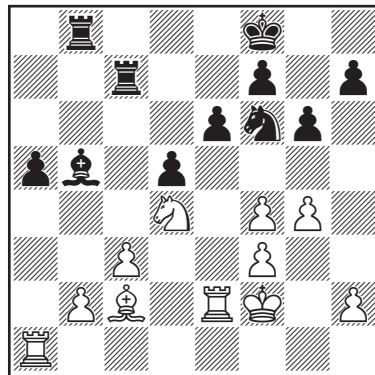
2. ♔g1 ♗d1 3. ♔g2 ♖e2 4. ♔h3
♗c2! 5. ♔g4 ♖h2–+

2... ♗f1! 3. ♔h4

3. ♔g4 ♖g3! 4. hg3 ♗d1 5. ♔h4
♗h1–+

**3... ♖g3!! 4. ♔g3****4. hg3 ♗h1****4... ♘f5! 5. ♖f5****5. ♔g4 ♗g2#****5... ♖e3 6. ♔h4****6. ♔g4 ♗g2 7. ♔h4 ♖h3#****6... ♗h3! 7. ♔g5 ♗f5 8. ♔h4 ♖h3#**

42. A. GIRI 2764 – V. ANTONENKO 2391
World Corporate (blitz) 2021



1. ? +-

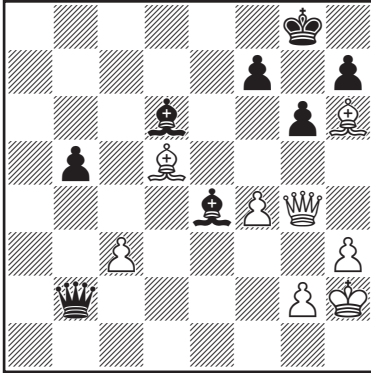
★

White wins material.

1. ♖e6! ♘e8**1... fe6 2. ♘e6 ♔e7 3. ♘c7+-****2. ♖e5+-**

43.

**N. BUKSA 2419 –
P. MAGHSOODLOO 2676**
Ville d'Orsay (blitz) 2021



1... ? =

★★★

The best defense is active one! There's just one way Black can save the position.

1... ♖f8!

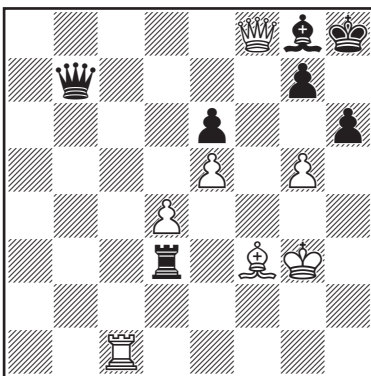
1... ♖f5? 2. ♖g5 ♖f8 3. ♖f6+- N. Buksa – P. Maghsoodloo;

1... ♖f4? 2. ♖f4 ♖d5 3. ♖g5! ♖f2 (3... ♖c6 4. ♖d8 ♖g7 5. ♖e5+-) 4. ♖d6! ♖g2 5. ♖g2 ♖g2 6. ♖g2+-

2. ♖f8 ♖d5=

44.

W. SO 2770 – J. DUDA 2743
Opera Euro (blitz) 2021



1. ? +-

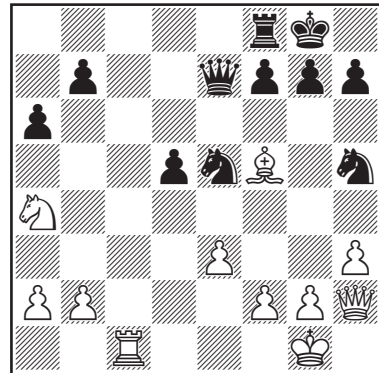
★★

White shuts Black's king. With the nasty threats, ♖g4 and ♖c8.

1. g6!+-

1. gh6? ♖f7! 2. hg7 ♖g7 3. ♖g7 ♖g7± W. So – J. Duda.

45. A. SALAKHOVA 1875 – V. GUNINA 2427
Moscow 2021



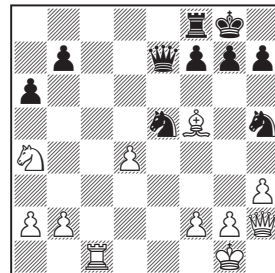
1... ? +-

★★★

The White's queen has gone astray on h2. Black opens the position, and the end is near.

1... d4! 2. ♖c5

2. ed4

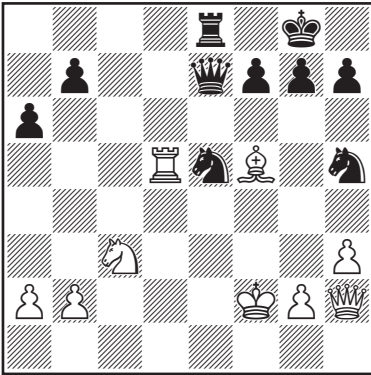


2... ♖f3! 3. gxf3 ♖g5+-

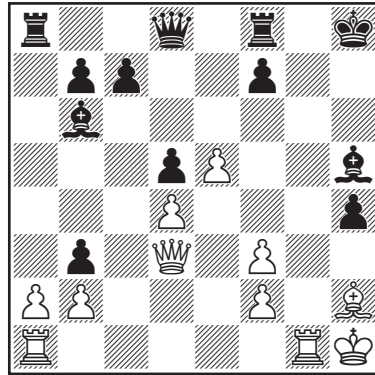
2... ♖e8 3. ♖d5 de3 4. ♖c3

4. fe3 ♖h4+- × ♖a4, e1

4... e2 5. ♖f2



2. ♖g1 ♖h8



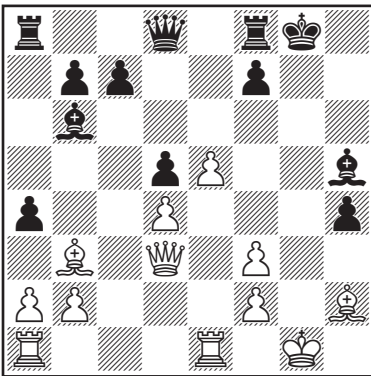
5... ♖g4!

0 : 1 3. e6! f6

3... ♖g6 4. ♖g6 fg6 5. ♖g6+-

4. ♖f5 ♖e8 5. ♖e5!+-

46. M. CARLSEN 2862 – W. SO 2770
Opera Euro (rapid) 2021



1. ? +-

★★★★★

Time is the most important factor here.
And the attack goes on g-file.

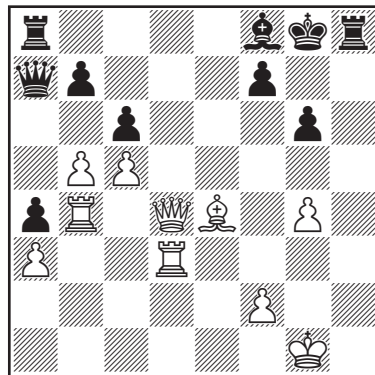
1. ♖h1!!

1. ♖d1 ♖g5 2. ♖h1→ M. Carlsen – W. So.

1... ab3

1... ♖g6 2. ♖g1 ♖h7 3. ♖g6 fg6 4.
♖g1 ♖f5 5. ♖c2 ♖g5 (5... ♖f8 6.
♖g4 ♖h6 7. ♖f4! ♖h5 8. ♖e3+-) 6.
f4 ♖g1 7. ♖g1 ♖e8 8. f5+-

47. V. KOZIAK 2433 – S. SJUGIROV 2663
lichess.org (blitz) 2021



1. ? +-

★★★

Crashing through!

1. ♖g6!

1. b6 (V. Koziak – S. Sjugirov) 1... ♖b8→

1... fg6

1... ♖c5 2. ♖f7 ♖f7 3. ♖h8+-;
1... ♖c5 2. ♖f7 ♖f7 3. ♖d7+-