

CARLSEN – RAPPORT

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JANUARY 11, 2023

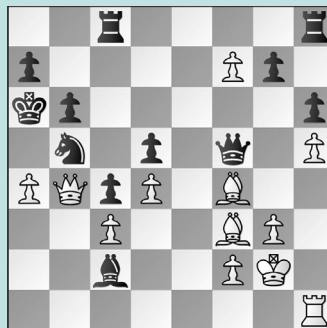
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



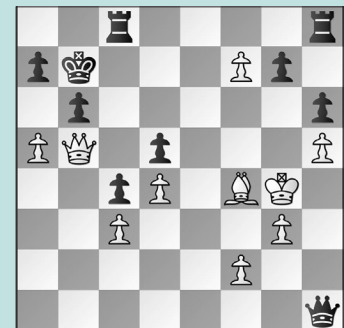
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



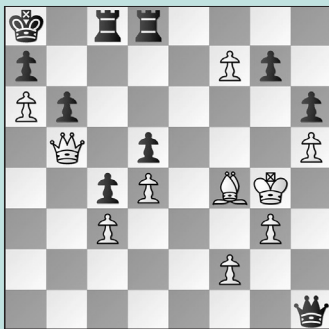
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



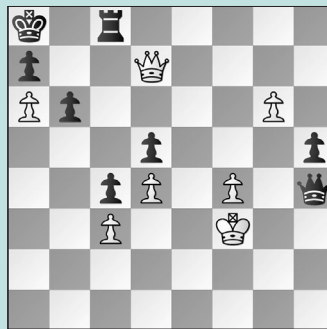
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



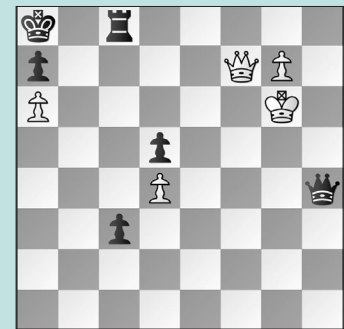
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 26. Rxb5!! Carlsen's in-game move 26. e6+? was a huge strategic error, as Black's b5-knight coordinates with the light-squared bishop to threaten to capture both of White's c-pawns. After 26. ... Kb7 27. Rxb5 and White cannot transpose moves, due to 27. ... Bxb5 28. Bxd5 Qf5!. **26. ... Bxb5 27. Bxd5** with compensation. (Carlsen – Rapport, World Blitz [analysis], 2022) **PUZZLE 2. 31. ... Nxc3!** With his 31. ... Nc7, Rapport missed a simplification tactic! If White does not capture, then Black covers the important b5- and d5-squares, defanging Qb4-b5+. **32. Qxc3 Be4 33. Bxe4 Qxe4+** when White has no threats, Black will scoop the f7-pawn, and be up a clean exchange.

(Carlsen – Rapport, World Blitz [analysis], 2022) **PUZZLE 3. 37. ... g6!!** Black's only way to hold the draw! Rapport chose to overprotect the d5-pawn with 37. ... Rhd8? in the game. **38. hxg6** White has nothing better. After 38. a6+? Ka8 White is not in time to play Qb5-d7, as in the game, due to Black's mate threat: 39. hxg6 Qe4 40. g7 h5+-. **38. ... Qe4! 39. Qd7+** 39. a6+? Ka8 40. Qd7 Qxg6+! **39. ... Ka6! 40. g7 Qg6+** and an equal position (Carlsen – Rapport, World Blitz [analysis], 2022) **PUZZLE 4. 39. f3!!** White threatens f7-f8=Q followed by Qb5-xd5 mate. Carlsen blundered in the game with 39. f8=Q, missing Black's resource after 39. ... Rxf8 (39. ... g6!) 40. Qd7 Rxf4+!. Without this move, Black was busted. **40. hxg6 h5+ 41. Kg5 Qxf3** Black can

cover the d5-pawn after all, but there is no perpetual after **42. g7+**. (Carlsen – Rapport, World Blitz [analysis], 2022) **PUZZLE 5.** Rapport correctly evaluates the resulting endgame and played. **49. ... Qg4+! 50. Qxg4 hxg4+ 51. Kxg4 b5!** and Black is fast enough to win only after this move. (Carlsen – Rapport, World Blitz, 2022) **PUZZLE 6. 63. ... Rc6+!** Rapport missed the cleanest win by playing 63. ... Qe4+? 64. Kg5 Qe3+??. Black could still win with 64. ... Rb8!, taking time to cover the threat of Qf7-b7 mate, and Black wins as 65. g8=Q Qg2+! is a nice X-ray. **64. Kf5 Qf2+** Black may look like he has stalemate tricks after **65. Ke5 Qxf7** but he had one pawn too many. **66. g8=Q+ Qxg8+**. (Carlsen – Rapport, World Blitz [analysis], 2022)