

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ MARCH 8, 2023

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



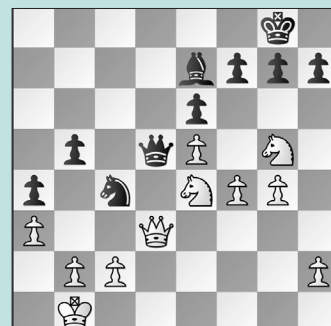
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 21. Rd7! and Black resigned rather than play 21. ... Qxd7 and only now, after the deflection, White plays 22. Qxh5 gxh5 23. Bh7 mate; 21. Qxh5? is too hasty, as Black can continue the game after 21. ... Qxh2+ 22. Qxh2 Nxh2 when 23. Nxf7 keeps an advantage, but not much more. (Menchik – Graf Stevenson, World-ch (14), 1937) **PUZZLE 2.** 20. Nd5+ The immediate 20. Qxe6+ Qxe6 21. Bxe6 Kxe6 is still better for White, but not a knock-out. 20. ... cxd5 21. Qxd3 Rad8 So far, White has not won material with her knight “sham” sacrifice. The strategic point was to keep queens on the board in order to continue the attack with her next move. 22. f4! gxf4 There is nothing better.

23. Bxf4 Bxf4 24. Rxf4+ Ke7 25. exd5 and Black resigned. (Menchik – Milner Barry, Hastings Chess Congress, 1934-5) **PUZZLE 3.** 34. ... Bc4! A nice “attraction” tactic using the queen’s lack of squares. 35. Qc2 Bb3 36. Rd8+ Bf8 and White resigned. (Mora Iturralde – Rudenko, World-ch (10), 1950) **PUZZLE 4.** 26. Nh2! The knight moves to the g4-square with resounding effect. 26. ... Rf8 27. Bxg7 27. Ng4 was also fine. 27. ... Kxg7 28. Ng4 g5 or 28. ... Nf4 29. g3! winning. 29. g3 h5 30. Ngf6 Kg6 When the king moves, the weak squares around the king change. 31. Qf3! and Black resigned on move 37. (Bykova – Rudenko, World-ch (7), 1956) **PUZZLE 5.** 24. Rh7! Previously, Black blundered with 23. ... Qe5-xh8(N), when 23. ... Bd6! would

have been winning. 24. ... Nf4 No better was 24. ... Qe5 25. Rxh5. 25. Rxh8+ Kxh8 26. Be4 and White won on move 32. (Rubtsova – Hurskova Belska, World-ch (13), 1950) **PUZZLE 6.** 31. Nf6+ Bxf6 Not 31. ... gxf6?? 32. Qxh7+ Kf8 33. Qh8 mate. 32. Qxh7+ Kf8 33. exf6 Importantly, there is no perpetual check for Black. After 33. Qh8+?? Ke7 34. exf6+ gxf6 Black has a miracle save after 35. Nh7 Nxa3+!! 36. bxa3 or else White loses 36. ... Qd1+ 37. Kb2 Qd4+ with a perpetual check. 33. ... Nd2+ 34. Kc1 Nb3+ 35. cxb3 Qh1+ 36. Kc2 axb3+ 37. Kxb3 Qd5+ 38. Kc2 Qc4+ 39. Kb1 Qf1+ 40. Ka2 Qc4+ 41. Ka1 Qf1+ 42. Qb1 Qxf4 43. fxf7+ and Black resigned. (Gaprindashvili – Paoli, Dortmund Schachtage, 1974)

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PUZZLE 7.



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PUZZLE 9.



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PUZZLE 10.



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PUZZLE 11.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 12.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 7. 28. R1c5! Himself an imaginative player, surely Hodgson appreciated this powerful “invisible,” move. **28. ... Ra6** Hopeless is 28. ... Bxc5. Not only is the passed c-pawn powerful, but the knight now accesses the d4-square with devastating effect: 29. dxc5 Kf8 30. Rc7 Re8 31. b7 Rab8 32. Nd4 winning. **29. Rb5 Be7 30. Nc3 a4 31. b3 axb3 32. a4!** and **Black resigned** on move 40. (Chiburdanidze – Hodgson, Hastings Chess Congress, 1986) **PUZZLE 8. 23. ... Qh4+** White just blundered with 23. Kg1-h2 instead of 23. Rf2. But the reason why this is so much worse is deep. **24. Bh3 Bxc3 25. Qxc3 Re2+ 26. Kg1 Qxh3** Black threatens mate, but it is not forced, and

she has not won her material back. **27. Rf2 Rxf2 28. Kxf2 Ne4+** Now she has! **White resigns.** (Chiburdanidze – Xie, SUFE Cup, 2001) **PUZZLE 9. 40. g5** An unusual double attack, that crashes through Black’s weakened kingside. **40. ... Nc5 41. gxf6 Bf8 42. f7+! Kxf7** Critical was 42. ... Qxf7 43. Qc3!. **43. f5!** I like this move. With Black’s king on the f-file instead of in the corner, White’s queen is well-placed. If only that pawn wasn’t in the way. **43. ... Kg8 44. fxf6 hxg6 45. Qf6** There is no way to stop all the threats. **Black resigned.** (Polgar, Zs – Ljubojevic, Bilbao Bilbao, 1987) **PUZZLE 10. 38. Rc6+ Kb8 39. Ra8+! Kxa8 40. Rxc8+ Ka7 41. c6+ Rxe3 42. fxe3** and **Black resigned.** (Polgar, Zs – Azmaiparashvili, Dortmund Schachtage,

1990) **PUZZLE 11. 20. Qg4** It is almost unfair to call this a “quiet” or “non-forcing” move. **20. ... Ne5** Black returns the sacrificed material. Alternatives; 20. ... fxf5 loses to 21. Nxf7 Qd8 22. Ne6; 20. ... g6 loses to 21. Nxe7+ Rxe7 22. gxf6 Re8 (or 22. ... Rf7 23. e5 winning) 23. Qg5. **21. fxe5 fxe5** Or 21. ... dxe5 22. Nxf7! exd4 (22. ... Kxf7 23. gxf6+ Kxf6 24. Rf1 mate) 23. gxf6 winning. **22. Be3 Bd8** Or 22. ... Qd8 23. Rc2 Rc8 24. Rf2 winning; 22. ... Ng6 23. h4 winning. **23. Rf1 Bc8 24. Qh5** and **Black resigns.** (Zhu – Bischoff, Fraenkische GM, 2000) **PUZZLE 12. 39. Rf7!** Delightful interference. **39. ... Qxf7** Or 39. ... Nxf7 40. Qxh7+ Kf8 41. Rxf7+ Qxf7 42. Qxf7 mate. **40. Rxf7 h5** and **Black resigned.** (Stefanova – Bruzon Batista, Corus-B Wijk aan Zee, 2004)

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PUZZLE 13.



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PUZZLE 16.



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PUZZLE 17.



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PUZZLE 18.



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SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 13. 17. c6! If you saw this position and said, “I wonder whether there’s a Boden’s mate,” you are in for a treat. White is unable to get the traditional mate with a bishop on the a6-square, but instead interpolates several other welcome themes. **17. ... bxc6** Alternatives: 17. ... Qxc6 18. Qxg4+ winning a piece; 17. ... Bxe2 18. cxd7+ Kxd7 19. Bxe2 winning. **18. Ba6+ Kb8 19. Qb2+ Ka8 20. Rb1! Rb8 21. Qxb8+! Rxb8 22. Rxb8+ Kxb8 23. Bf4+ Ka8 24. Rb1!** and **Black resigned.** (Xu – Liu, Chinese Team Championship, 2008) **PUZZLE 14. 23. Rxc4** After getting accustomed to the chaos, it is clear that White’s queen is untouchable. **23. ... Naxc4 24. Qxe5!** It’s amazing what

you can get away with when your opponent’s queen is also hanging. **24. ... Qxc5+ 25. Qxc5 Rxc5 26. Nd4** and **Black resigned**, due to the terrifying d-pawn. (Kosteniuk – Abdusattorov, Porticcio, 2018) **PUZZLE 15. 25. Nh6** Also winning is 25. exd8=Q+, but does not deserve the same style points. **25. ... Nxf2 26. Nxf7+** and **Black resigned**, rather than face **26. ... Kg8 27. Nxd8+ Kh8 28. Bxf2!** when there is no stopping the e-pawn. (Kosteniuk – Goryachkina, Russian Championship (Women), 2018) **PUZZLE 16. 29. ... Nxf2!** The rare case where only two pieces conduct a successful attack. Or maybe Black’s d4-pawn counts? **30. Kxf2 Qe2+ 31. Kg1 Re3! 32. Qc2 Rg3+ 33. Kh1 Rxh3+ 34. Kg1 Qe3+** and **White resigned.** (Meier – Hou, Grenke

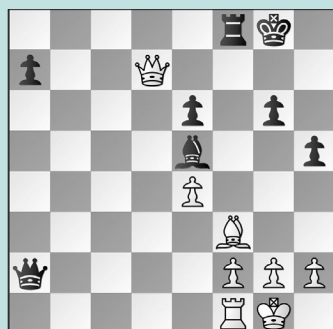
Chess Classic, 2017) **PUZZLE 17. 34. Nc1!** A cruel move. White’s knight was out of play, and she follows the golden rule of attack by using all of her pieces. Once the knight comes to the g6-square, Black can (and does) resign. **34. ... Qg7 35. Qxg7+ Rxg7 36. Nd3 Rg4 37. Nf4 Kh7 38. h3 Rg3 39. Ng6 Rxh3+ 40. Kg2** and **Black resigns.** (Hou – Navara, Tata Steel A, 2016) **PUZZLE 18. 17. Qe4 Qe6** Or 17. ... Kf8 18. Rb1! (Not 18. Bf4 Bxf4! (White might have hoped for 18. ... Bxa1?? 19. Bd6+ winning) 19. Qxf4 Nf6 when Black is winning) 18. ... Bc7 19. Qh7 Nf6 20. Qh8+ Ke7 21. Qxg7 winning. **18. Rb1 Bc3 19. Qh7+ Kf8 20. Bf4** and **Black resigned** five moves later. (Ushenina – Kosov, 14th Chigorin Memorial A, 2006)

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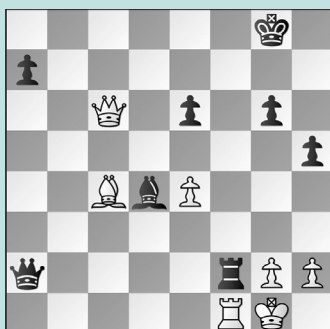
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PUZZLE 19.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 20.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 21.



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PUZZLE 22.



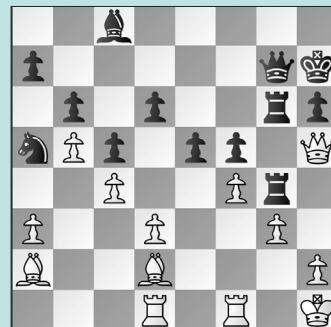
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PUZZLE 23.



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PUZZLE 24.



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SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 19. 25. Be2! Rather than being passive! **25. ... Rf7** Not 25. ... Qxe2? **26. Qxe6+ Rf7 27. Qe8+ Kg7 28. Qxe5+ Kh7 29. Qe8** and White is better. **26. Qc8+ Rf8 27. Qc6 Bd4 28. Bc4** and **White went on to win** after Black's **28. ... Rxf2?** (see next diagram). (Ushenina – Svidler, FIDE World Cup, 2013) **PUZZLE 20. 29. Qxe6+ Kh7** Alternatives: **29. ... Rf7+ 30. Kh1** winning; **29. ... Kg7 30. Qd7+ Kh6 31. Bxa2** winning. **30. Qd7+!** and **Black resigned**. (Ushenina – Svidler, FIDE World Cup, 2013) **PUZZLE 21. 26. Qd2!** The first of two irresistible queen sacrifices. **26. ... Rf8 27. Bd5+! Bxd5 28. Qxd5+ Kh8 29. Qf7!** and **Black resigned**. (Muzychuk – Koneru, World Championship knock-out, 2015) **PUZZLE**

22. 20. Be8! An inventive way to reanimate a sidelined piece! **20. ... Kf8** Not **20. ... Rxe8?** **21. Qxd7 Qh6 22. f7+** winning. **21. f7** Cutting the board in two! **21. ... Ba8 22. Rxb8 Nxb8 23. Ne5 d6 24. Qh3** and **Black resigned** on move 32. (Tan – Kosteniuk, Candidates (Women), 2019) **PUZZLE 23. 25. ... Rc2+! 26. Kxc2 Qxc2+** and **White resigned** rather than face: **27. Kxc2 dxc2 28. Rc1** Or **28. Be3 Rd8 29. Rc1** (29. Bc1 Rd1 winning) **29. ... Nd3** winning. **28. ... Nd3 29. Rxc2 Ne1+**. (Koneru – Ju, Teheran FIDE GP, 2016) **PUZZLE 24. 29. ... Bb7+** White just played **29. Kg1-h1**, but Black's prior move, **28. ... Be6-c8**, was prepared for this moment! **30. Kg1 Rxc3+! 31. hxc3** Or **31. Kf2 Rf3+ 32. Qxf3 Bxf3 33. Kxf3 Rg2** winning. **31. ... Rxc3+ 32. Kf2 Rg2+**

and **White resigned** in light of **33. ... Qg3+** with mate to follow. (Lagno – Ju, World Championship knock-out, 2018)

LIST OF WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONS: Vera Menchik (1927–44), Lyudmila Rudenko (1950–53), Elisabeth Bykova (1953–56S 1958–62), Olga Rubtsova (1956–58), Nona Gaprindashvili (1962–78), Maia Chiburdanidze (1978–91), Xie Jun (1991–96, 1999–2001), Susan Polgar (1996–99), Zhu Chen (2001–04), Antoaneta Stefanova (2004–06), Xu Yuhua (2006–08), Alexandra Kosteniuk (2008–10), Hou Yifan (2010–12, 2013–15, 2016–17), Anna Ushenina (2012–13), Mariya Muzychuk (2015–16), Tan Zhongyi (2017–18), Ju Wenjun (2018–Present)