

FRIED LIVER: PINS + CHASES

In the Fried Liver, White is down a piece, but Black's king is pinned. This week's puzzles feature three "king hunts" (1-3) and three puzzles

making use of these pins (4-6).

This week's **example** is a typical "king hunt" position you'll see in the main line of the Fried Liver. Black's last move was 10. ... Kd6, trying to get out of the pin coming on the e-file. Now, White plays **11. Bg5!**, when the "logic" of White's play is becoming clear: if Black breaks your pin, then find a new one. **11. ... h6 12. Bh4 g5 13. Bg3** Another pin! **13. ... Bg7 14. dxe5+ Ke6 15. Ne4 Nf5 16. Rad1** As a **bonus**, what

would you do if Black captured your e-pawn with **16. ... Bxe5?**



1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. WHITE TO PLAY

4. WHITE TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 25. Qb3+ Ka7 Or 25. ... Kc7
26. Qxb7 mate. **26. Qxb7** mate.
 (Zhigalko – Agdestein, Doha (Blitz), 2023) *Note: other exercises are all analysis positions from this game.*
2) 17. Bxe5+ We always want to find opportunities to draw the king further into the center! **17. ... Kxe5**
18. Rfe1+ Kd6 19. Qg3 would be mate. Instead, **19. Ne4+** is the first check you might see, but it allows the king to retreat to safety, e.g.:

19. ... Kc7 20. Qg3+ Nf4! With no pin, this is a new resource for Black.
3) 14. Na4+ Kb4 Or 14. ... Kxc4
15. Qb3 mate. **15. Qa3+ Ka5 16. Bd2+ Nc3** Or 16. ... Nb4 17. Qxb4 mate.
17. b4 And that's mate! **4) 16. Re1+ Kf7 17. Qf3+! Ke8** Alternatively, 17. ... Kg8 18. Bxe7 Bxe7 19. Bxd5+ is nice. **18. Bb5+!** Winning the queen!
5) 18. Qh3+ Kc7 It is counterintuitive to let the king here, but there's no way back to the "foxhole" after ...
19. Bf4+ Kb6 20. Re6+ Nc6 21. Bxc6

bxc6 22. Qb3+ Ka6 23. Qa4+ Mate is only a matter of time. **6) 13. dxe5+ Kd7** The alternatives hang the bishop: 13. ... Kc7 14. Bxe6; 13. ... Kc5 14. Bxe6. **14. bxc3!** This is a very clever move. After **14. ... Bxc4 15. Rad1+ Bd5** We see the power of the c3-pawn. **16. c4!** If White had played 14. Qxc3, there would be no c3-c4 move here. **Bonus)** After this move, it's hard to go wrong for White here. I like **17. Bxe5 Kxe5 18. Rfe1** using all of our pieces!