

LET'S MATE MAGNUS CARLSEN

It's not every day GM Magnus Carlsen loses, so when 23-year-old GM Alisher Suleymenov from Kazakhstan, rated only 2512, beat

Carlsen last week, we took notice.

This week's exercises trace Suleymenov's victory from a threat of smothered mate that made Carlsen resign back through two pieces sacs and a pawn sac that set it all up.

In our **example**, White played **31. Nh6** and Carlsen resigned. We'll see variations below, but Black's best play would have been **31. ... Qe7** when White wins with **32. Nf7+ Kg8 33. Ng5+ Kh8 34. Bb3 Nc7 35. Nf7+**

Kg8 36. Ng5+ Kh8. As a **bonus**, how can White bring in the last attacker?



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) 32. Qf7! Black has to move the knight to save the mate on g8, but after **32. ... Nf6** White wins with **33. Qg8+ Rxg8** Or **33. ... Nxg8 34. Nf7** mate. **34. Nf7** A smothered mate! All exercises from Suleymenov – Carlsen, Qatar, 2023. **2) 33. Qf7** It's the same idea! **33. ... Nc7 34. Qg8+ Rxg8 35. Nf7** mate. **3) 26. Qf3** A simple point: Black needed to cover the e6-square, but this move allows the fatal pin. **26. ... Kg8** Or **26. ... g5**

27. g3. 27. Qxf4 when White won shortly. **4) 23. Rxd5!** The only win, White's remaining pieces end the game. **23. ... exd5 24. Qxd5+ Kf8 25. Nd4!** Threatening Nd4-e6+ and a decisive windmill. This is why Black had to play ... Ng6-f4. **5) 21. Nxf7!** Dragging the king out into the open. **21. ... Kxf7 22. cxd5 Bxd5** This is how we were able to play Rd1xd5. No better was **22. ... exd5:** White still sacs with **23. Rxd5 Kf8 24. Nd4 Nf4 25. Rd7** winning. **6) 19.**

e5! The hardest move of the whole set. Pawn breaks “set the stage” for piece-heavy attacks. If White goes for **19. Qb3?! Be7!** is brilliant defense. Before we can get to the h-file, Black kicks our knight back. **19. ... d5 20. Qb3** and White now threatens Qb3-h3 as well as the sacs on f7 and d5. **20. ... Be7** stops **21. Qh3**, but now, with the inclusion of Black's ... d6-d5, we can “work backwards” to see the game. **Bonus) 37. Re3** Now the rook gets to h3!