



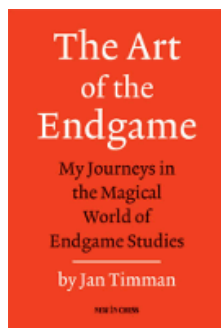
COLUMNISTS

The Instructor

Mark Dvoretsky



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Traps Part Two

Now let's discuss an example of a successful trap in a duel between two top grandmasters.

Bronstein – Korchnoi

Moscow – Leningrad match, 1962



[FEN "7k/5qp1/1Q5p/8/6P1/1p3P2/1P1r2PK/4R3 w - - 0 36"]

1.?

White has a significant advantage, which is based not so much on his extra pawn as it is on the vulnerable position of the enemy king. True, two pawns (b2 and f3) are under attack, but if he plays, for example, 36.Qa5, they will be untouchable: on 36...Rxb2?, there follows 37.Qa8+ Kh7 38.Re8 with a decisive attack.

An attack on the back rank can also be launched immediately, but then the f3-pawn remains under attack. That circumstance doesn't rattle David Bronstein.

36.Qb8+! Kh7 37.Re8! Qxf3?!

Viktor Korchnoi doesn't guess his opponent's clever idea and falls into the net he has set. Capturing the other pawn also lost: 37...Rxb2 38.Rh8+ Kg6 39.Qe5 Rc2 40.Qh5+ Kf6 41.Qf5+ Ke7 42.Qe5+, and White's attack is unstoppable. 37...Kg6!+/- gave comparatively better chances of a successful defense.

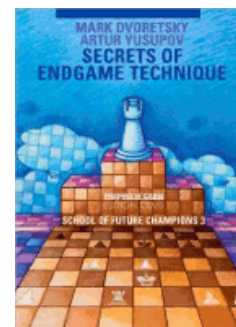
38.Rh8+ Kg6



[FEN "1Q5R/6p1/6kp/8/6P1/1p3q2/1P1r2PK/8 w - - 0 39"]

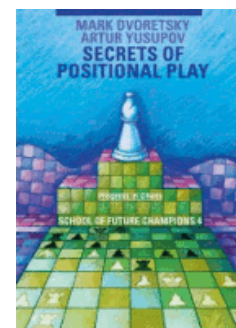
1.?

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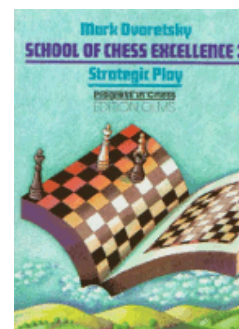
Secrets of Endgame Technique

by Mark Dvoretsky
& Artur Yusupov



Secrets of Positional Play

by Mark Dvoretsky
& Artur Yusupov



School of Chess Excellence

Strategic Play

by Mark Dvoretsky



In deciding to take the f3-pawn, Korchnoi was undoubtedly convinced that his opponent had no simple paths to his goal. For example, 39.Qe8+? Qf7! 40.Qe4 + Kg5 41.Qe5+ (41.Qe3+? Qf4+) 41...Kxg4, and White has to be satisfied with perpetual check.

39.Rxh6+!!

Black resigned because of the variation 39...Kxh6 (39...gh 40.Qg8+ Kf6 41.Qf8+) 40.Qh8+ Kg6 41.Qh5+ Kf6 42.g5+ and 43.Qxf3.

What can we say about the trap that we have just looked at? Well, firstly, it is sufficiently well-hidden (Korchnoi didn't fall into it for no reason – he himself is a superb tactician), and that means it had good chances of success.

Secondly, playing for a trap in this case wasn't associated with the risk of worsening White's position: as the continuation he chose was the strongest or one of the strongest. The tactical blow that Bronstein prepared served in essence as the tactical basis of the path he intended to take. These kinds of "incidental" traps are a powerful weapon, and they are not even associated with any particular risk. Because if our opponent guesses our idea we don't lose very much: the evaluation of the position doesn't change substantially and the battle will continue.

In calculating the variations we check the correctness of the move that we intend to make. And we don't usually consider its tactical basis to be a trap, except in those rather rare cases when our idea is non-obvious and we are justified in hoping that our opponent won't guess it.

I will elaborate on the thoughts I've expressed with the following example.

Grachev – Inarkiev

Moscow, 2011



[FEN "6k1/pp3pp1/3rpnp1/2q5/2P5/1P3N1P/P1Q2PP1/3R2K1 w - - 0 24"]

1.?

On the board there is a quiet and almost equal position that is just a little more pleasant for White. To fight for a win, on the one hand you have to accumulate tiny advantages, hoping that with inaccurate play by your opponent they'll gradually transform into noticeable superiority; and on the other you have to prepare tricks for your opponent, to provoke him into inaccuracies and mistakes.

The mentioned requirements are fully satisfied by the move that Boris Grachev made, **24.Rd3!** He wants to seize the d-file with his queen, playing Qd1 or Qd2 at the appropriate moment (by the way, this isn't threatened for now because of the reply Ne4). And at the same time he sets a little trap, which his opponent falls into.

24...Qf5?? 25.Rxd6! Qxc2 26.Rd8+ Kh7 27.Ng5+ Black resigned because of unavoidable mate.

Grachev probably didn't see the move he'd made as a trap: he hardly expected

that his sophisticated partner would make such a crude blunder. For White the variation that occurred in the game served only as the tactical basis for his intended move. But, as we can see, even such apparently simple traps have practical chances of success. As a very large number of players are inclined to concentrate only on their own ideas and are insufficiently attentive to their opponents' resources.

In choosing one path or another in a game, with all things equal it makes sense to give preference to a continuation in which the likelihood of your opponent making a mistake increases. Even if we can only talk about a trap in these cases with a considerable share of reservations, still, in essence this is the same "trap" approach.

Let's take a look at a theoretical endgame position that arose in analysis of the famous ending **Capablanca – Janowsky**, New York, 1916.



[FEN "8/2B5/2K5/1P6/8/3kb3/8/8 w - - 0 89"]

1.?

White is in no condition to get a win: with accurate defense all his efforts are parried. The question is how to cause the most problems for his opponent.

89.Bd6 Kc4= is harmless. Having positioned itself in the rear of its counterpart, the black king prevents a cover on c5 and guarantees an easy draw.

89.Bb6 Bg5 90.Bf2 Bd8 91.Bg3 Kc4= gives nothing – again White was too late for the cover 92.Bc7.

The move 89.Kb7 causes a problem for Black, but we can come back to that later.

89.Kd5!

Counting on his opponent sticking to a waiting tactic, by choosing, for example, 89...Kc3? then White wins by means of 90.Bd6 Bb6 (90...Kb3 91.Bc5 Ka4 92.Kc6+-) 91.Kc6 – depending on the bishop retreat the white bishop goes to c5 or c7.

89...Bd2!!

The only non-obvious defense. On 90.b6, there follows 90...Ba5=.

90.Bd8 (90.Bd6 Ba5=) **90...Be3!** (91.b6 Ba5 92.b7 was threatened) **91.Be7** (91.Be7 Bb6 92.Bd6 Ba5 isn't dangerous) **91...Bd2! 92.Kc6**

After our opponent has found the defense associated with the move Bd2! we should go back to the initial position and try a plan with a transfer of the king to a6.

92...Be3 93.Kb7! Kc4 94.Ka6 Kb3!!

Only this! Both 94...Bd4? 95.Bb6 Bf6 96.Bf2 Bd8 97.Be1 with a subsequent 98.Ba5 and 94...Kb4? 95.Bb6 Bg5 96.Ba5+ lose.

95.Bb6 Bg5 96.Bf2 Bd8 97.Be1 Ka4=

Black still managed to implement the main defensive idea in these kinds of positions: he positioned his king behind its counterpart.

After playing the moves made by White in the main variation you'd be right in saying to yourself, "I did everything I could!" In actual fact, as my practice using this ending in coaching lessons showed, the likelihood of a mistake by Black here is rather high even for grandmaster-level players.

Aronian – Jakovenko

Olympiad, Khanty-Mansiysk, 2010



[FEN "8/3nbpk1/4p1pp/r1p5/1p1P1P2/3NPBP1/1P2K2P/2R5 w - - 0 36"]

1.?

Black's pieces are tied down to the defense of the c5-pawn, and taking on d4 is bad because of the reply Rc7. But it isn't easy for White to increase the pressure, as in the case of 36.Bc6 the knight retreats with a tempo: 36...Nb8.

The last move was 35...Kf8-g7. Levon Aronian rationally assumed that his opponent planned to go 36...Bf8, to prepare 37...cd. Having spotted a flaw in Dmitry Jakovenko's idea, Aronian decided to provoke him into blundering and made a harmless waiting move.

36.Rc2! Bf8?

Black should have waited too: 36...h5 (or 36...Kf8). After the likely 37.e4 Bf8 38.Ke3 cd+ 39.Kxd4, with a subsequent 40.e5, Black's position remained worse, but was completely defensible.

37.Bc6 Nb8 (37...b3 38.Rc3 is useless) **38.Be8!**

Here is why: 38...cd 39.Rc7 is bad.

38...Na6 39.Ne5 cd

Black inevitably loses a pawn, and now he has to decide which way to give it up. I would probably have preferred 39...f6!? 40.Nxg6 Bd6 – as here the white pieces temporarily find themselves in not very convenient positions.

40.ed



[FEN "4Bb2/5pk1/n3p1pp/r3N3/1p1P1P2/6P1/1PR1K2P/8 b - - 0 40"]

After the exchange of pawns indicated above the opportunity 40...f6!? 41. Nxc6 Bd6 loses some of its force, as the c-file has opened up for the white rook. Then again, it deserved attention here too, for example, 42.Rc6 (42. Nh4!? Nc7+/-) 42...Nc7 43.Rxd6 Nxe8 44.Rxe6 Kxc6 45.Rxe8 Ra2, and the outcome of the battle in a rook endgame isn't completely obvious yet.

Another try, 40...Be7, is justified with 41.Nxf7? b3! 42.Rc3 Ra2 43.Rxb3 Kf8 unclear or 41.Bxf7?! Rxe5+ 42.fe Kxf7 43.Rc8 (43.b3 Bd8) 43...b3!+/. But after 41.Rc8! Black's position becomes hopeless: one more threat has been added to all the others, 42.Ra8.

The path chosen by Jakovenko didn't leave him any chances of saving himself.

40...g5?! 41.Bxf7!

Aronian correctly notices that he can give up two minor pieces for a rook and pawn, as the black knight remains out of play and will soon be lost. Then again, 41.Rc6!? was also very strong.

41...Rxe5+ 42.fe Kxf7 43.Rc6 Nb8 44.Rc7+ Be7

On 44...Kg8, he intended 45.b3, putting his opponent in a *zugzwang* position. An analogous *zugzwang* also came about in the game.

45.b3 Na6 46.Rb7. Black resigned because of 46...Ke8 (preparing 47...Bd8 and 48...Nc7) 47.Ra7 Nb8 48.Ra8.

The words of La Rochefoucauld could serve as an epigraph for the next two examples: "By pretending that we have fallen into a trap that has been set we demonstrate truly sophisticated cunning, because deceiving a person is easiest of all when he wants to deceive us."

In one of the books of Mikhail Tal's collected games there is a section called "Falling into a Trap." The grandmaster describes how he tries *to find a carefully-hidden net so as to later find a move (it may be a zwischenzug) or an unexpected solution that turns everything upside down (or downside up – I don't know). It's like with wrestlers – one of them falls on the mat so that later, after extricating himself, he'll be in a more favorable position.*

I will introduce you to two episodes of creativity by Tal on the mentioned topic, using his notes.

Bannik – Tal

Soviet Championship, Moscow, 1957



[FEN "1r1r2k1/1p2qp2/p1p2bp1/7p/2Pnp2P/2B3P1/PP1RPPB1/2R1Q1K1 b - - 0 25"]

1...?

White's last move, 25.Rd1-d2, forced me to be on my guard. Why did Bannik provoke Black into the favorable advance for him e4-e3? As after the forced 25...e3! 26.fe Qxe3+ White apparently can't continue 27.Qf2 because of 27...Nxe2+!, winning the exchange. Did my experienced opponent, by the way also an excellent tactician, really not notice this obvious blow?

By doubting White's "naivete", Black easily guessed the trap that had been set for him. And then found a zwischenzug in it and happily stuck his head in the trap.

From myself I'll point out that after 27.Kh2=/+ White's position remained playable. But thanks to that there was no point in provoking e4-e3 – there were more reliable paths.

28.Rxe2 Qxc1+ 29.Re1



[FEN "1r1r2k1/1p3p2/p1p2bp1/7p/2P4P/2B3P1/PP3QB1/2q1R1K1 b - - 0 29"]

1...?

Anatoly Bannik was obviously counting on achieving a significant advantage in the variation 29...Rd1? 30.Qxf6! Rxe1+ 31.Kh2 Qh6 32.Bxe1. But an extremely unpleasant surprise was lying in wait for him.

29...Bxc3! 30.Rxc1 Bd4++

The exchange and a pawn up, Black won easily, of course.

Hübner – Tal

Interzonal tournament, Biel, 1976



[FEN "1r3rk1/p4pp1/q3p2p/2p1P1n1/
1bPn3N/2N1R1PP/PP4Q1/2B2RK1 w - - 0 23"]

It's obvious that White's position is worse. In his search for a defense Robert Hubner prepared a trap for me.

23.b3 Nxb3+!

Once again Black happily goes "to meet his death", as he'd discovered an interim counterblow in reserve. A few of the next moves were made virtually instantaneously.

It is worth noting that the transposition of moves 23...Bxc3?! 24.Rxc3 Nxb3+ would have allowed White to get a playable position, by playing 25.Kh2! Ng5 26.Bxg5 hg 27.Nf3=+/. In the game, though, declining to capture the knight, 24.Kh2 Ng5-/+ , doesn't alleviate his position, as his own rook is preventing the bishop from taking on g5.

24.Qxh3 Bxc3 25.Qg4

The lesser evil for White was the simple 25.Rf2, leaving him a pawn down after 25...Ba5. But the essence of the trap was specifically in the move 25.Qg4.

I'll clarify that in the variation 25.Rf2 Ba5?! 26.Qg4 (with a subsequent 27.Rd3) it isn't all that simple – as the white pieces are hanging threateningly over the kingside. 25...Qa5!-/+ is stronger, and if 26.Qg4, then either 26...Nc6 (attacking the e5-pawn and preparing Bd4), or 26...Be1 27.Rh2 f5.

25...Qxa2! (25...Ba5? 26.Re4 with an advantage for White) 26.Rxc3



[FEN "1r3rk1/p4pp1/4p2p/2p1P3/2Pn2QN/
1PR3P1/q7/2B2RK1 b - - 0 26"]

1...?

Now on 26...Ne2+ 27.Kh1 Nxc3 White has 28.Bxh6 with a winning attack. But at this point the saying "he that mischief hatches, mischief catches" has never been more appropriate.

26...h5!!

In this paradoxical way Black destroys the harmony of the white pieces and after obtaining a material advantage easily makes the best of it.

By the way, after 26...Ne2+ 27.Kh1 the same move 27...h5! is very strong (instead of the losing 27...Nxc3??). The move 28.Qxh5 leads to what happened in the game, and if 28.Qf3, then 28...Nxc3 29.Qxc3 Rxb3-+.

27.Qxh5 Ne2+ 28.Kh1 Nxc3 29.Bh6 Qe2! 30.Qg5 Qe4+ 31.Rf3 Qh7, and Black won.

Exercises

1) Blackburne – Nimzowitsch

St. Petersburg, 1914



[FEN "4rb1k/3q2pp/2n1bp2/2p1pN2/1pP1P1P1/3PBQ2/rP1R1N1P/5RK1 w - - 0 25"]

1.?

2) J. Polgar – Antunes

Olympiad, Yerevan, 1996



[FEN "r1r3k1/1p2ppbp/3p2p1/p1nP4/4P3/1P2BP2/P2KB1PP/2R4R b - - 0 19"]

1...?

3) Taimanov – Averbakh

Leningrad, 1947



[FEN "5nk1/R5p1/p3p2p/2B1P2P/rp3P2/6K1/6P1/8 b - - 0 44"]

1...?

4) Honfi – Lengyel

Hungarian Championship, Budapest, 1963



[FEN "8/1b6/p2k2P1/2Rp1B2/PKp5/2P5/6r1/8 w - - 0 47"]

1.?

5) Boleslavsky – Bondarevsky

Moscow, 1941



[FEN "2r1k2r/3bppb1/p7/1p1N3p/3NP3/1P2QPq1/PP1R4/1K5R b k - 0 25"]

1...?

6) Fuchs – Bronstein

Berlin, 1968



[FEN "3r1rk1/3qppb1/1p3npp/1N6/Pn1P1N2/5QP1/1P2RPKP/R1B5 b - - 0 21"]

1...?

Solutions

1) Blackburne – Nimzowitsch

25.g5!

Joseph Blackburne opens lines on the kingside in the hope of creating an attack. At the same time he provokes the following reply from his opponent, foreseeing its tactical refutation.

25...g6?!

He should have played 25...fg! Attacking the knight, Aron Nimzowitsch was obviously counting on 26.Ng3? f5-/+ (or 26...fg-/+).

26.Ng4!

White seizes the initiative, which his opponent doesn't manage to extinguish.

26...gf?!

26...fg!/? 27.Nf6 Qf7 28.Nxe8 Qxe8, is preferable, but then again after 29. Bxg5 gf 30.ef Bf7 31.Bf6+ Bg7 32.Bxg7+ Kxg7 Black's position remains dire. And if we do go into the position that occurred in the game, then it is more precise to get it by transposing moves: 26...Nd4 27.Qf2 gf, as taking the knight immediately offers White an additional not unfavorable opportunity.

27.Nxf6 Nd4



[FEN "4rb1k/3q3p/4bN2/2p1ppP1/1pPnP3/3PBQ2/rP1R3P/5RK1 w - - 0 28"]

28.Qf2

The continuation 28.Qh5! Qf7 29.g6! Qxg6+ 30.Qxg6 hg 31.Nxe8 deserved serious attention. In the variation 31...Nb3 32.Rg2 f4 33.Rxg6! Bf7 White preserves a significant advantage in two ways: 34.Rg5 Bxe8 35.Rxe5 and 34. Rf6 Kg8 35.Bxf4! Bxe8 36.Bxe5 Bg7 37.Re6 Bf7 38.Re7 Bxe5 39.Rxe5.

28...Qc6 29.Nxe8 Qxe8 30.Bxd4 ed 31.ef Bd7 32.Re1 Qf7?! (32...Qh5 is better) 33.Qh4 Ra8 34.Rf2 Bc6? (34...h6!?) 35.Qg4?! (35.g6! Qg7 36.Rfe2+-) 35...Re8? 36.Rxe8 Qxe8 37.Re2 Qd7 38.Re6 Ba8 39.g6+- hg 40.Rxg6 Qh7 41.Qg3 Qh5 42.Rg4. Black resigned.

2) J. Polgar – Antunes

19...a4!!

In making his move, Antonio Antunes prepared a beautiful counter to his opponent's natural reply.

20.b4?! (20.Bxc5 dc=+) 20...Nb3+! 21.ab Rxc1 22.Rxc1 a3



[FEN "r5k1/1p2ppbp/3p2p1/3P4/1P2P3/
p2BP2/3KB1PP/2R5 w - - 0 23"]

Black gets a material advantage, as the rook has to be given up for the "a" pawn. Then again, the battle isn't over yet.

23.Bb5!

23.Bg5 Kf8 24.Rc7 a2! 25.Bxe7+ Kg8 26.Rc1 Bh6+ is useless. But it made sense to advance the pawn to b6: 23.b5!? a2 24.b6 Bb2!? 25.Rd1 a1Q 26.Rxa1 Rxa1 (threatening 27...Bc1+) 27.Kc2. Antunes suggests 27...Ba3 and cuts the variation short, considering Black's position won. In actual fact, after 28.Bb5! Bc5 29.Bxc5 dc 30.Kd3 Kf8 31.Kc4 Rc1+ 32.Kd3 White has sufficient counterplay in connection with the threat 33.Bc6. Instead of 27...Ba3?! stronger is 27...Bg7 28.Bb5 Ra2+ 29.Kd3 Rb2 30.Ba4 Kf8-/+.

23...a2 24.Kd3

An immediate 24.Bc6!? deserved attention, for example, 24...a1Q (the bishop is untouchable) 25.Rxa1 Rxa1 26.Bxb7 Rb1 27.Bc6 Rb2+ 28.Kc1 Rxb3 29.Bd2 Bd4-/+.

24...a1Q 25.Rxa1 Rxa1 26.Bc6 Rb1 27.Kc4 Rb2! 28.Bxb7 Rc2+ 29.Kd3 (29.Kb5 Rxc2) 29...Rc3+ 30.Ke2 Rxb3 31.Bd2 Bc3! 32.Bxc3 Rxc3 33.b5 e5!, and Black won.

3) Taimanov – Averbakh

The threat of 45.Ra8 can be parried with 44...Nh7. Black chooses a cleverer path that contains a trap.

44...b3! 45.Ra8?

45.Rb7 Ra5! 46.Bxf8 is better (47...Rb5 was threatened) 46...Kxf8 47.Rxb3 Rb5 with a drawn rook ending.

45...Rb4!! 46.Rxf8+ Kh7



[FEN "5R2/6pk/p3p2p/2B1P2P/1r3P2/
1p4K1/6P1/8 w - - 0 47"]

The rook is untouchable: 47.Bxb4? b2-+. Black wins the piece back and gets a rook endgame with a solid advantage.

47.Bd4 Rxd4 48.Rb8 Rd3+ 49.Kf2 a5 50.f5! Rd5! 51.fe Rxe5 52.Rxb3 Rxe6-+

4) Honfi – Lengyel

White's position is lost because of the extremely unfortunate position of his rook. There is an obvious threat: 47...Rb2+, for example, 47.Ra5 Rb2+ 48.Ka3 Rb3+ 49.Ka2 Rxc3-+ (50.g7 Rg3 is useless). On 47.a5, it is possible to react in exactly the same way, but 47...Bc6 is also strong, intending 48...Rb2+ 49.Ka3 Rb3+ 50.Ka2 Kxc5 51.g7 Rb8. If 47.Bh3, then simply 47...Rxc6-+.

The best practical chance is a stalemate trap, which was crowned with

complete success in the game.

47.Bc8! Rb2+?

Winning was 47...a5+! 48.Kb5 (48.Kxa5 Kxc5; 48.Rxa5 Bxc8) 48...Rb2+ 49.Kxa5 Kxc5 50.g7 Rb6 (here is where the absence of black pawn on a6 makes itself felt: 51...Ra6# is threatened) 51.Bxb7 Rxb7 (again mate is threatened; then again, 51...Rg6 is also sufficient).

48.Ka5! (but not, of course, 48.Ka3? Kxc5 49.Kxb2 Bxc8 50.g7 Be6-+)



[FEN "2B5/1b6/p2k2P1/K1Rp4/P1p5/2P5/1r6/8 b - - 0 48"]

48...Kxc5

On 48...Rg2, there follows 49.Kb6!? (or 49.Rxc4!?). The move 48...Rc2!? set more complex tasks for White, and if 49.Kb4, then 49...Rc1! with zugzwang. It seems that you have to play 49.Rxc4! dc 50.Bxb7 Rxc3 51.g7! (but not 51.Kb4?? Rb3+ and not 51.Bxa6? Kc5-+) 51...Rg3 52.Kb4 c3 53.Kb3 Kc5 54.Bxa6 Kd4 55.g8Q Rxc8 56.Bxa6 with a drawn endgame.

49.g7 Rg2 50.Bg4! Rxc4 51.g8Q Rxc8 – stalemate.

5) Boleslavsky – Bondarevsky

25...Bh6!

The strongest move and simultaneously a trap.

26.Rxh5?

26.Qf2 was necessary; then again, after the approximate 26...Qxf2 27.Rxf2 e6 28.Nf6+ Ke7 29.Nxd7 Be3 30.Nf5+ ef 31.Re2 f4 32.Ne5 Black's position is better.

26...Rg8!

The deadly threat of 27...Qg1+ decides the outcome of the battle.

27.Qd3 Qg1+. White resigned because of 28.Rd1 Rc1+.

6) Fuchs – Bronstein

It is highly likely that White wants to complete his development by bringing his bishop out. Since on Bd2 there is the reply Nc2, we can expect the move Be3. Bearing this in mind, Black prepared a clever trap.

21...Rfe8! 22.Be3? g5!



[FEN "3rr1k1/3qppb1/1p3n1p/1N4p1/
Pn1P1N2/4BQP1/1P2RKP/R7 w - - 0 23"]

1.?

23.Nh5?

It is better to give up the pawn, 23.Bd2.

23...g4 24.Nxf6+ ef! 25.Qf4 Nd5

Now it is clear why the move 21...Rfe8! was necessary – the queen is trapped. White resigned.

Next month, we will conclude this series of articles.

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