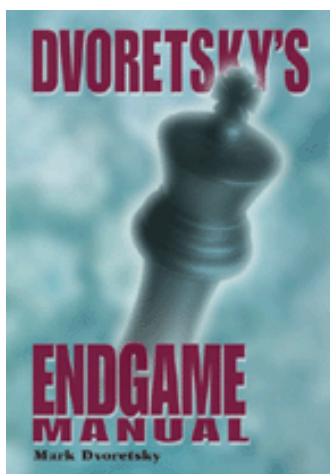




COLUMNISTS

The
Instructor
Mark Dvoretsky



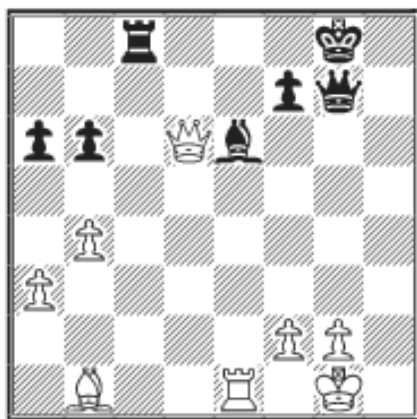
Reverberating "Quiet" Moves

Beauty in chess comes in many different forms. For insufficiently skilled players, one of the primary esthetic criteria would probably be the “weight” of piece sacrificed. The experienced player, however, will not be astounded by sacrifices; the first thing he looks for is originality and purity of conception.

Sometimes the key to a position lies in an outwardly modest (in GM Kotov’s word – “furtive”) move. I always find myself most powerfully impressed by such cases. In the first place, by their mysteriousness: why it is that one of many apparently equivalent moves should suddenly turn out to be so much stronger than the rest – what hidden laws of chess geometry are being made clear here, and how should we learn to obey them? And secondly, by their paradoxical economy: the humble relocation of one piece radically changes what would seem to be the firm assessment of the position, and sometimes in fact immediately settles the outcome of the game.

I remember a game from my own praxis, which has already appeared in one of my books.

Dvoretsky – Anikaev
Batumi, 1969



B?

Black is a pawn down, his queenside is vulnerable, and the protection of his king is inferior to White’s. Everything seems clear – but now comes:

37...Qg7-g5!!

“My flanks are collapsing, my center is beaten in – I attack!” – these famous words of a French Marechal could have been uttered in

precisely this position. The move creates two threats: 38...Rc1 and 38...Bd5, both quite unpleasant.

I didn’t want to play something craven, 38. Qd1 or 38. Rf1!?!; so I found what appeared to be a more acceptable way out of the position – and nearly lost the game!

38. Bb1-e4?! Rc8-c1 39. Re1-d1 Be6-d5!!

Another surprise! Fortunately, White still has a draw.

40. Qd6-b8+! Kg8-g7 41. Rd1xc1 Qg5xc1+ 42. Kg1-h2 Qc1-h6+

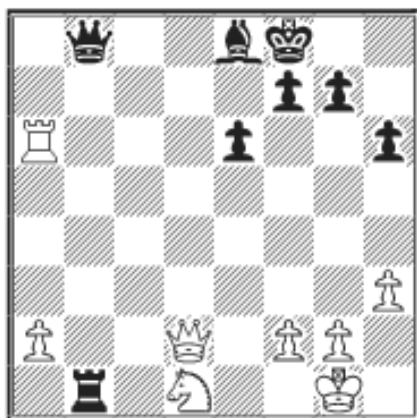
Or 42...Bxe4 43. Qe5+ Kf8 44. Qxe4 Qxa3 =.

43. Kh2-g1 Qh6-c1+ 44. Kg1-h2 Qc1-h6+ 45. Kh2-g1 Qh6-c1+ Draw

The queen is the most powerful piece in chess, exerting force in every direction. It's not surprising that many quiet moves of amazing power turn out to be queen moves. The g5-square turned out to be where the power lines of this position intersected: from here, the queen controlled the c1-square diagonally, the d5-square horizontally, while at the same time exerting continual pressure on the file against g2.

Leko – Bologan

Dortmund, 2003



B?

The outcome of this game essentially determined the winner of this very strong international tournament. I looked in on the tournament online when the middlegame was in full swing and saw that White had a clear advantage. However, Viorel Bologan's resourceful defense made his opponent err, and the situation changed drastically. Returning to the site once again, I saw the diagrammed position.

Having made the time-control, Bologan stopped to think: how should he exploit the pin on the knight? In Moscow, I was thinking the same thing, examining several obvious continuations; but I could find no clear road to victory. Then I gave the position to "Fritz" – who immediately came up with the solution, of course. At the board, after a number of hours of tense struggle, it's very hard to analyze all the candidate moves accurately, and select the one correct line; nevertheless, the grandmaster dealt with his task no less effectively than did the computer.

41...Qb8-e5!

Exactly there! Black threatens 42...Qd5! 43. Rd6 Qxd2 44. Rxd2 Ba4, winning a piece. The counterpin 43. Ra8 doesn't help, while the other defensive move, 43. Rd6, is immediately refuted by 43...Ba4 44. Rd8+ Ke7 – here it's important that the queen is off the 8th rank, first of all; and secondly, that it keeps the d6-square under control.

42. Ra6-a3

The only defense: 42...Qd5? 43. Rd3.

42...Qe5-g5!

Amazing geometry! White can't play 43. Qxg5 Rxd1+; and on 43. Qd4, Black can once again play 43...Qd5 44. Rd3 Ba4; if 43. Qd3, then either 43...Qc1 or 43...Bc6; and finally, 43. Qd6+ loses to 43...Qe7! 44. Qd3 Rxd1+ 45. Qxd1 Qxa3.

43. Ra3-e3 Be8-a4 44. Kg1-h2 Qg5-f4+

44...Bxd1 was also possible – but not 44...Rxd1?, of course, because of 45. Qb4+.

45. g2-g3 Rb1xd1! 46. Qd2-d8+

A sign of terrible disappointment!

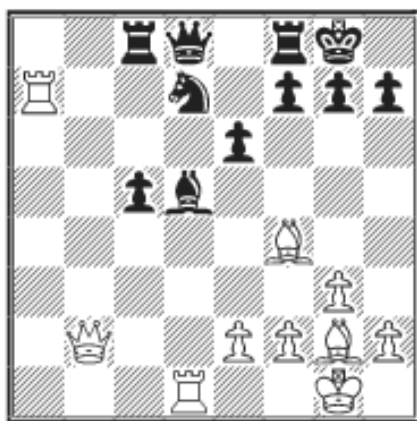
46...Rd1xd8 White resigned

Sometimes, decisive threats can be created, not by encroaching on the enemy camp, but by appearing to retreat from it. The following example was shown to me quite recently by Artur Yusupov.

Kramnik – Leko

Budapest, 2001 (rapid)

3rd match game



W?

How does White exploit the obvious plusses of his position? The straightforward 21. Bxd5?! ed 22. Rxd5 fails to achieve the goal after the only, but sufficient reply 22...Qb6! =. Another tempting possibility, 21. Bd6?! Re8 22. Bxd5 ed 23. Qb7, also runs into a tactical riposte: 23...Qf6! 24. Qxd7 Rcd8 = (this variation was pointed out by Vadim Zvjagintsev).

Vladimir Kramnik failed to find the solution, and the game soon ended in a draw: **21. e4?! Bc6 22. Rd6** (22. Bd6 Re8 23. Bxc5 Qf6) **22...Ra8 23. Qa3 Rxa7 24. Qxa7 Qc8** (24...Qb8 = wouldn't have been bad, either) **25. Bf1 Nf6 26. Ba6 Qe8 27. f3 Bb5 28. Qxc5 Bxa6** Draw.

The goal is reached by means of an amazing quiet move.

21. Qb2-a1!!

And there appears to be no defense against the simple little threat of 22. Bxd5 ed 23. Rxd5. If 21...Nf6, then 22. e4. The best defense, relatively speaking, is 21...Qe8; but after 22. e4 Bc6 23. Bd6, White easily converts his exchange plus.

Why did the retreat of the queen into the very corner of the board turn out to be decisive? The point of the move is that from there, the queen defends both rooks, thus preventing any attempt by the enemy to free himself from the pin. Other queen moves would be less effective: for instance, 21. Qc1?! Nf6, and 22. e4 is already pointless, because of 22...Qb6 (when the rook at a7 is attacked). And if 21. Qa3!?, then 21...c4, when 22. Bxd5 is met by 22...Nc5! – now the undefended rook at d1 tells. Although, to be sure, 22. e4 Bc6 23. e5! Bb5! 24. Qb4 Rb8 25. Rb7 would still retain White's advantage.

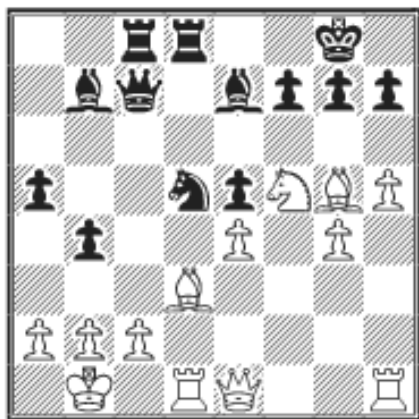
Inarkiev – Bakre

Gibraltar, 2004

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cd 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd2 Be7 8. 0-0-0 0-0 9. f3 a6 10. h4 Nxd4 11. Qxd4 b5 12. Kb1 Qc7 13. Qd2 Rd8 14. Bd3 Bb7 15. Qe1!

This excellent preventive move, found over the board, is a theoretical novelty. Black was preparing d6-d5 (immediately, or else after 14...b4 16. Ne2), when the standard e4-e5 could be met by Ne4! By moving his queen off the d-file, White neutralizes his opponent's activity in the center.

15...Rac8 16. g4 b4 17. Ne2 e5 (17...d5? 18. e5! Qxe5 19. Bf4+-) 18. Ng3 d5 19. Nf5 a5 20. h5 de 21. fe Nd5!?



W?

White has a powerful kingside initiative. With his last move, the Indian player seeks to untangle the situation. White has a number of tempting possibilities, which makes it very hard to calculate all the variations accurately. Still, let's try a short analysis:

a) 22. Qh4? Bxg5 23. Qxg5 f6 – the attack is at an end; the initiative goes over to Black;

b) 22. ed Bxg5 23. d6 (23. Qe4 g6) 23...Qc5, with mutual chances;

c) 22. Bxe7 Nxe7 23. Qh4 (23. h6 should be met, not by 23...g6 24. Qh4, but by 23...g5!) 23...f6! (23...Nxf5 24. gf Ba6 25. f6 or 24...b3 25. ab a4 26. Bc4 would be much weaker) 24. h6 g5, with unclear play;

d) 22. Nxe7+ Nxe7, and after 23. h6 f6 24. Be3 g6 25. Qf2 Rd6, White has a hard time demonstrating the superiority of his position. Ernesto Inarkiev decided

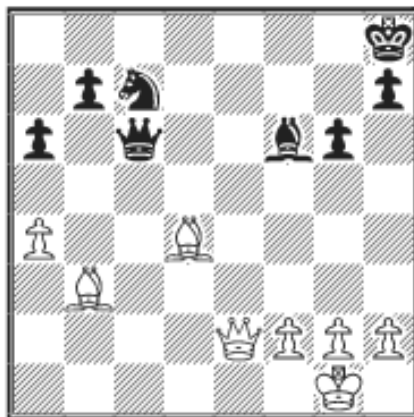
to prepare the move h5-h6 by playing **23. Bc1?**, underestimating the counterstroke **23...b3!**, strengthening the threatened exchange sacrifice on d3, which has been hanging in the air for some time already. He ended up even losing the game.

All that separated White from winning this game; however, was one move – one which we did not include in our initial list of candidates. Had we been able to find it first, we could have avoided all those complex calculations, as it would have been immediately clear which continuation was the strongest.

22. Bg5-h4!!

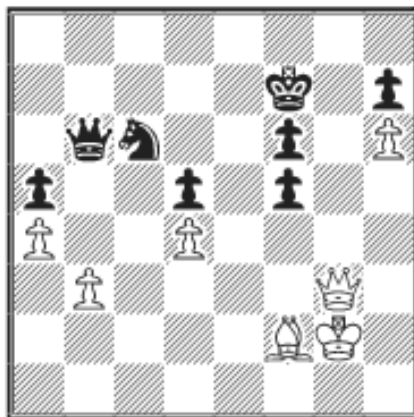
And what is Black to do? Going back to f6 with the knight would be stupid; the sacrifice on c3 doesn't work; and on 22...Bxh4 23. Qxh4 Nf4, White doesn't take the exchange with the knight check on e7 (which in fact would also be good enough), but continues his attack by 24. h6!

What could help you find powerful quiet moves in your own games? Why, the development of your tactical sense (and this is real tactics, even if there are no sacrifices involved), the regular use of the candidate-moves approach in calculating variations, and of course, practical training – which is why I now offer you the following eight exercises.



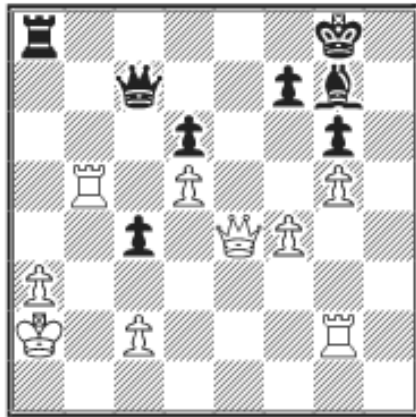
Exercise 1

W?



Exercise 2

B?



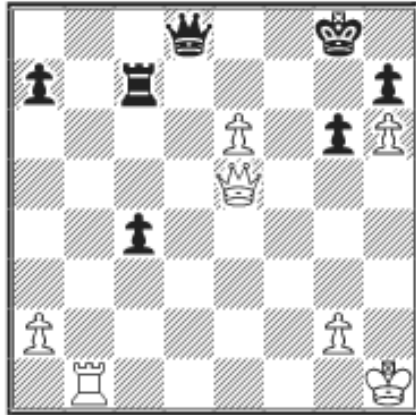
Exercise 3

B?



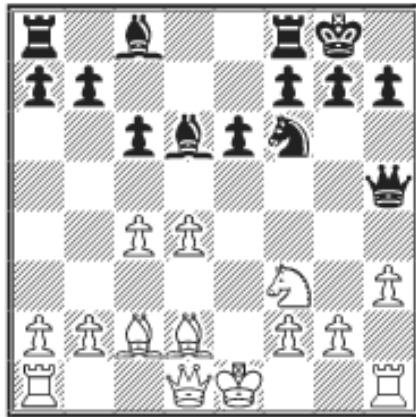
Exercise 4

W?



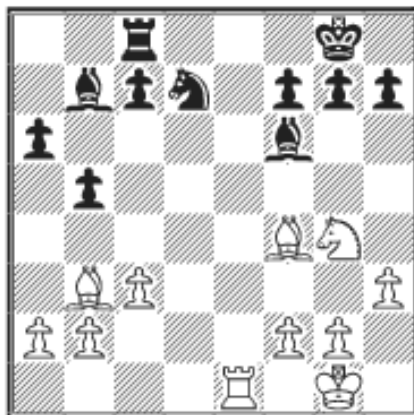
Exercise 5

W?

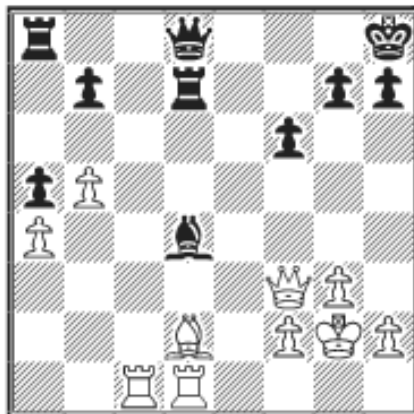


Exercise 6

W?

**Exercise 7**

W?

**Exercise 8**

W?

Answers**1 Riga – Orel**, inter-city match 1986

The obvious 1. Qc4? doesn't make the grade, in view of 1...Nd5! 2. Qxc6 (2. Qxd5?? Qc1+) 2...bc 3. Bxd5 Bxd4 =.

1. Bd4-b2!!

Now that the c1-square is defended, White is threatening 2. Qe7 and 2. Qc4. On 1...Ne8, he replies, not 2. Qe7? Qc1+! 3. Bxc1 Bxe7, but 2. Qxe8+! Therefore, Black resigned.

2 Short – Bagirov, Baku 1983

How does Black stop White's extremely unpleasant threat of a queen invasion at g7?

48...Qb6-a7!!

The only move to maintain rough equality. After 49. Qg7+ Ke6, the 7th rank is protected; 49. Qd6 Nb4 would not be dangerous, either.

49. Qg7+ Ke6 50. Qg8+

If 50. Bh4, then either 50...Qxd4!?, or the more restrained 50...Qf7 51. Qg3 Qh5 52. Qg8+ Qf7 =.

50...Qf7 51. Qc8+ Qd7 52. Qg8+ Qf7 53. Qa8 Qc7 54. Bg3 Qd7 55. Qg8+ Qf7 56. Qc8+ Qd7 57. Qg8+ Qf7 58. Qa8 Qd7 59. Bf4 Kf7 60. Qh8 Kg6 61. Qg8+ Kh5 62. Qg3 Draw

3 Endzelins – Dunhaupt, corr. 1973

Which is more important: White's exchange plus, or his weakened king position? Everything depends on whether Black can find a way to create irresistible threats quickly.

The rook sacrifice on a3 doesn't work, of course; and on 1...Qa7?, White defends himself by 2. Rg3+- As so often happens, Black must look for a double threat, since two threats are much harder to parry than one.

1...Qc7-d7!

White resigned immediately, since not only is his rook attacked, but Black also threatens 2...Qh3 attacking both the other rook and a3. For example: 2. Qxc4 Qh3, or 2. Rb4 Qh3! 3. a4 Qc3-+.

4 Chernin – Dvojrís, Podolsk 1993.

White obtains nothing from 30. h4?! Rc7! – Black secures f7 and prepares for Be5.

30. Bb4-d2!!

The threat of 31. Rxf6 Qxf6 32. Bh6+ forces Black into a decisive weakening of his kingside.

30...g5 31. Rf5 Rc7 (White's task is easier after 31...h6 32. h4) **32. Qg3!**

32. h4 Bc8! would be less accurate: after 33. Rxf6 Bxf6 34. Bxf6 Qd6 35. Bf4 Qg6, or 33. d6 Bxf5 34. dc Qd3!, the outcome remains unclear.

32...Rac8 (32...Bc8 33. Rxf6+-; 32...h6 33. h4 Bc8 34. Rxf6 or 34. hg Bxf5 35. gf+) **33. h4 Kh8 34. Bxg5**

Another good line was 34. hg Bg7 35. Re1, intending Re4-h4, Bf4, d5-d6.

34...Bxg5 35. hg (threatening 36. Qe5+ and 37. d6) **35...Qe7! 36. Re5**

36. d6? would be a mistake: 36...Qe4 37. Qe5+ Kg8! (37...Qxe5 is worse: 38. Rxe5 Rd7 39. Re7 Bc6 40. Bxf7+) 38. Qxe4 Bxe4 39. dc Bxf5 40. Rc1 Be6, and White's advantage has disappeared.

36...Qb4! 37. Bc2!

37. Rbe1!? Rc1 38. Rxc1 Rxc1+ 39. Kh2_± was possible, but the text is stronger.

37...Qc3 (37...Qd4 38. Rd1) **38. Bd3 Qd4 39. d6!** (39. Qh3 f6!) **39...Rc3**
(39...Rd7 40. Qh3!) **40. Re3 Rd8** (40...Rc1+ 41. Re1) **41. Qh3! Qg7 42. d7**

42. Re7 (intending 43. g6) 42...Ba6 43. d7 wins also.

42...Bc6 43. Bf5 Rxe3 44. Qxe3 f6 (44...Bxd7 45. Bxd7 Rxd7 46. Qe8+) **45. Rc1! Bxd7 46. Rc7 Re8 47. Qf3 fg 48. Rxd7 Qa1+ 49. Kh2 Qe5+ 50. g3 Re7 51. Be6!** Black resigned

5 Khalifman – Glek, Leningrad 1989

In situations like these, we always look for spectacular tactical blows. But it's not hard to see that 1. Rb8? Qxb8 2. e7 Kf7 = doesn't work (or 2...Qb1+ 3. Kh2 Rxe7 4. Qxe7 Qb8+); on 1. Qd4? Black replies 1...Qf8; and on 1. Qd5? – 1...Rc8! And 1. e7? Rxe7 2. Rb8 Rxe5 is also useless.

1. Qe5-f4!!

Taking his queen off the e-file, White creates the unstoppable threat of 2. e7 (which would be his reply, for example, to 1...c3).

1...g5 2. Qxg5+! (2. e7! Rxe7 3. Qxg5+ would be okay too) Black resigned.

6 Razvalyayev – Kalikstein, Tashkent 1972**1. Ke1-e2!!**

By this highly unusual means of joining his queen and rook, White creates the terrible threat of trapping the queen by 2. g4.

1...e5 2. g4 Bxg4 3. hg Qxg4 4. Qg1 Qe6 5. Rxh7! ed+ 6. Be3 Nxh7 7. Bxh7+ Kh8 8. Qh1 g6 9. Bxg6+ Kg7 10. Qh6+ Kf6 11. Bf5+ Black resigned.

Let me clarify: this idea was only unusual for those times. Later, the same idea would be employed by Anatoly Karpov (playing Black) in his beloved Caro-Kann Defense. Here was the opening of his game against Gata Kamsky, Dortmund 1993:

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 de 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Bg5 Ngf6 6. Bd3 e6 7. N1f3 Bd6 8. Qe2 h6 9. Ne4 Nxe4 10. Qxe4 Nf6 11. Qh4 (11. Qe2!?)



11...Ke7!?, intending 12...g5.

7 Keres – Benko, Yugoslavia 1959,
Candidates' Tournament

White keeps the advantage “any way he wants;” the only question is how to extract the maximum from the position. 20. Nxf6+?! Nxf6 21. Re7 Nd5 is unconvincing, since the combination 22. Rd7 Nxf4 23. Rxf7 is only enough to draw: 23...Ne2+ 24. Kf1 Nc1 25. Be6 Re8 (26...Rb8!?) 26. Re7+ Kf8 =.

A better-looking line is 20. Rd1 Nc5 (on 20...Bc6, White has at least 21. Bc2 h5 22. Nxf6+ Nxf6 23. Bf5) 21. Nxf6+ gf 22. Bc2; however, after 22...Be4 23. Bxe4 Nxe4, Black can still put up stubborn resistance. For example: 24. Rd7 Nc5! 25. Rxc7 Rxc7 26. Bxc7 Na4, or 24. Bh6 Nd6 25. g4 (preventing Nf5) 25...f5, intending f7-f6 and Kf7.

Paul Keres found a deadly continuation.

20. Bb3-c2!!

There is no satisfactory defense against 21. Bf5. 20...Bd5 doesn't work: 21. Bf5 Be6 22. Rxe6+-. After the relatively best move, 20...h5 21. Bf5 (21. Nxf6+ Nxf6 22. Bf5 Re8 is less exact) 21...hg 22. Bxd7 Rd8 23. Bxg4, White keeps a healthy extra pawn.

The game lasted just one more move: **20...g6? 21. Rd1** Black resigned (21...h5 22. Nh6+).

8 Makarov – Dvojris, Gorky 1989

23. Qf3-g4!

An amazingly powerful quiet move. How does Black defend against 24. Bc3? If 23...Bb2, then the simple 24. Rc2 is sufficient, while a more spectacular solution would be 24. Bc3 f5 25. Qxg7+! Rxg7 26. Rxd8+ Rxd8 27. Bxb2. On 23...Bxf2, White also has a choice, between 24. Bh6 f5 25. Bxg7+ Kg8 26. Qe2, and 24. Bxa5 Rxd1 25. Bxd8 Rxc1 26. Qd7+-

23...Rd7-d5 24. Bd2xa5!

The point of White's idea: this wins an important pawn. Black can't play 24...Rxa5 because of 25. Rc8, while 24...Qxa5 is met by 25. Rxd4.

24...b6 25. Bb4 f5 26. Qf4 h6 (26...Rxa4? 27. Rxd4, and the back-rank weakness tells) **27. Be7! Qxe7** (27...Qd7 28. Rc7) **28. Rxd4 Rad8 29. Rxd5 Rxd5 30. Rc6 Qd8 32. Qe3 Rd4 32. Qe6 Qe8 33. Qxf5 Rxa4 34. Qc8** (34. Kh3! was a quicker

kill) 34...Qxc8 35. Rxc8+ Kh7 36. Rc6 Rb4 37. Rxb6 h5 38. Rb8 g6 39. b6
Kg7 40. b7 Kh7 41. f4 Kg7 42. h3 Black resigned



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