

Instruction

1. Bg5! Qg6 2. Qxc6+!

A common **stock diversion sacrifice** culminating in mate on d8:

2. ... Rxc6 3. Rd8 mate.

Note that even without knowing this stock mate, you could find it using the method of analyzing the most forcing moves first; but knowledge of the pattern helps you zero in on the crucial lines immediately, perhaps even several moves earlier in analysis.

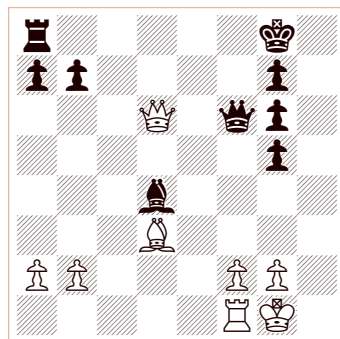
In the process of working with students and researching the book, I realized that the study of stock positions is only a first step toward teaching class players to hone in on winning forcing moves. Increasingly, I shifted my focus to the role of—

—Human bias

GM Lubomir Ftacnik

GM Luc Winants

Tilburg, 1992



White to move

For instance, how could a strong grandmaster overlook the mate in two ...

1. Bc4+ Kh7 2. Qh2! mate?

The answer is rather obvious; when we humans think of “attacking moves,” we tend to think of “forward moves.” Too often, my students would affix labels to a move, such as “too passive” or “ruins my pawn structure,” without analyzing first! A computer could care less whether a move “looks aggressive” or not; it just crunches out variations first, then draws conclusions. One chapter of *Forcing Chess Moves* explores dozens of positions where “backward moves” like the following held the key to successful attack!

Attack via retreat

Morten Johansen

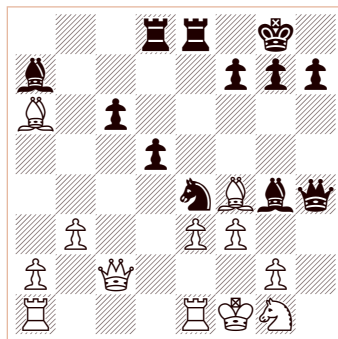
GM Jiri Stoczek

Plzen, 1997

(see diagram top of next column)

Has Black overextended by allowing the pawn fork 1. f3? The answer came in the form of a devastating attacking retreat:

1. ... Bc8!! 2. Bxc8



Black to move

Noxious is 2. fxe4 Bxa6+ 3. Ne2 Rxe4, e.g. 4. Qxc6? Rxf4+! 5. exf4 Qf2 mate. White should smell a rat and try 2. Bd3 Qxf4! 3. Bxe4!, but Black retains a winning attack with 3. ... Bxe3! 4. Bxh7+ Kh8 with the strong threat 5. ... Qh2.

2. ... Qxf4!!

The nasty point!

3. exf4

Perhaps a courtesy capture to avoid the misery of 3. Bh3 Ng3+ 4. Kf2 Rxe3 5. Rxe3 Qxe3+!

3. ... Ng3 mate.

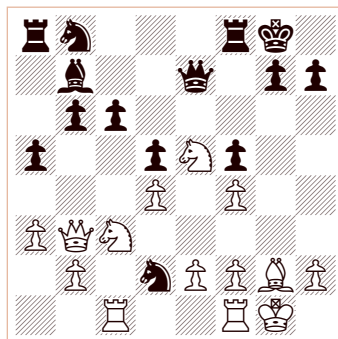
“Forcing retreats” are only the tip of the iceberg which I uncovered while studying and classifying the different types of rote thought patterns which prevent tournament players from finding winning forcing moves more consistently in their games. I leave you with a taste of two more of the many categories of human bias which are covered in depth in the book:

Knee-jerk reaction

GM Einar Gausel

Stefan Briem

Reykjavik, 1996



White to move

One of the greatest analytical sins of class players is “knee-jerk” defensive thinking: the automatic assumption that one must move or protect an attacked piece. *Forcing Chess Moves* teaches you to take the opposite approach; when a piece is attacked, your first question

should be: “Can I make an equal or stronger threat (EST)?” This question is consistent with always analyzing the most forcing move first. White would be worse here if he had to move the queen, but instead he **wins by force** with the EST ...

1. Nxd5!! cxd5

On 1. ... Nxb3 comes the beautiful stock “corridor mate” 2. Nxe7+ Kh8 3. N5g6+! hxg6 4. Rc3 Kh7 5. Rh3 mate; while 1. ... Qe6 2. Ne7+ wins the queen.

2. Bxd5+ Kh8?

Falling on his sword, but white is clearly winning after 2. ... Bxd5 3. Qxd5+ Kh8 4. Qxa8 Nxf1 5. Rxf1.

3. Ng6+! hxg6 4. Qh3+

... and mate next.

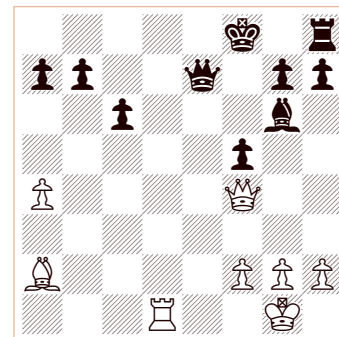
Another insidious form of human bias in calculation is the preference for “loud” attacking moves like checks and captures, over more “quiet-looking” forcing moves which may hold the key to success:

Shhhh!

GM Christopher Lutz

GM Evgeny Bareev

Munich, 1994



White to move

Black is in great difficulties due to his misplaced king and rook, but White would be remiss to settle for “just” regaining a pawn with 1. Qb8+? Be8 2. Qxa7, since a “quiet forcing move” makes Black’s position implode:

1. Kf1! h5

Other moves are no better, but I invite you to start developing your “computer eyes” by studying the attractive “brute force” variations on your own!

2. Re1 Qd8

He can’t prevent both 3. Qb8+ and the following crusher:

3. Qb4+!

... and mate in two. ■

Forcing Chess Moves by FM Charles Hertan is available at uscfsales.com at a member discount for \$23.95 (list price \$24.95).