



Studies with Stephenson

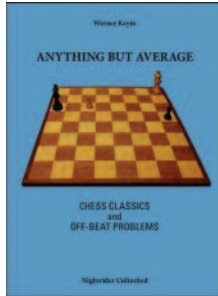
I was delighted recently to receive another new book by German chess composer Werner Keym. It is written in English and entitled *Anything but Average*, with the subtitle 'Chess Classics and Off-beat Problems'.

The book starts with some classic games and combinations, but soon moves into the world of chess composition, covering endgame studies, directmates, helpmates, selfmates, and retroanalysis. Werner has made a careful selection from many sources and I was happy to meet again many old friends, but also delighted to encounter some new ones.

In the world of chess composition, separate from the struggle that is the game, many remarkable things can happen and you will find a lot of them in this book. Among the most remarkable are those that can occur in problems involving retroanalysis. Herr Keym is an acknowledged expert in this field, so it is natural that the book's sections on this are substantial, and include some very welcome guidance on how to solve retro problems.

If you know little about chess composition, but wish to know more, this book is a wonderful introduction to a fascinating world. If you are a seasoned problemist, then it just has to be on your shelves. Keym's fine work can be ordered online at: tinyurl.com/yx9ethgj

As our entertainment this issue, I am happy to present two of the new friends that this book introduced me to. Firstly, a three-mover by one of the leading German problemists of the 20th Century.



would happen if it were Black to move. Here 1...♔g2 2.♖xf2+ ♔h1 3 ♕ any#, or 2...♔g3/♔xh3 3 ♖b3#. there is no mate in a further two moves as 2 ♕a4? is refuted by 2...♗xb1 3 ♕c6+ ♗e4+!. So, how to provide for this good defence?

1 d3?, blocking the line from b1 to e4 is one try, but this spoils the 3 ♖b3 mate required after 1...♔g2.

Checking with 1 ♕a4? fails to 1...♔g2! as 2 ♖xf2+? ♔xh3 3 ♖b3+ is met by 3...♔xg4!.

1 ♖c1?, another attempt to stop 3...♗e4+, fails to 1...f1♕!! as 2 ♕c2/♕b3/♕a4 is stalemate.

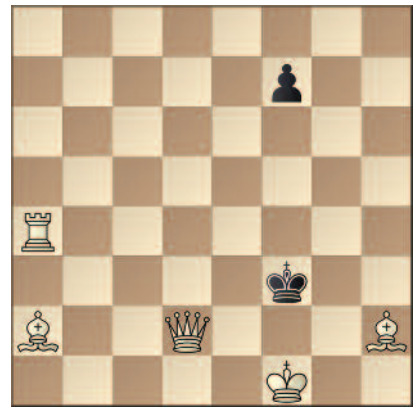
So, by elimination, we are left with moving the white king. 1 ♔f7? is refuted by 1...f1♗+ 2 ♖f2 ♗c4+!, 1 ♔d8? is refuted by 1...f1♗ 2 ♖f2 ♗d3+! and 1 ♔e7? is answered by 1...f1♗ 2 ♖f2 ♗e1+!.

The only answer is **1 ♔f8!!**, walking into a check, but it's also zugzwang.

1...♔g2 2.♖xf2+ ♔h1 3 ♕ any#, or 2...♔g3/♔xh3 3 ♖b3#.

Now, for you to solve, is a selfmate by one of the best contemporary composers in the genre, Andrei Selivanov of Russia. In a selfmate White is to play and force a reluctant Black to mate him. In this case the mate has to happen on or before Black's fifth move.

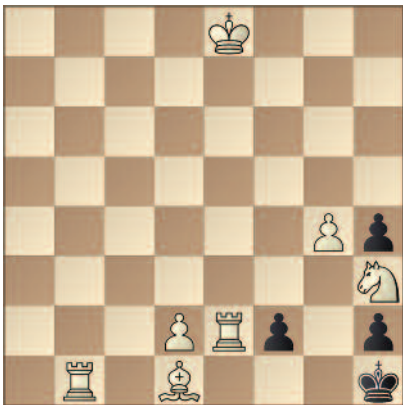
Andrei Selivanov 1st/2nd Prize, Uralski Problemist, 2000



White to play, selfmate in 5

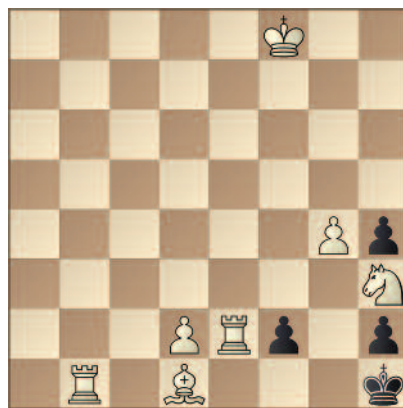
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Ado Kraemer 1st Prize, Römmig Memorial, 1954



White to play and mate in 3

When solving chess problems it is often useful to look at the 'set play', which is what



The full solution is:
1...f1♗+ 2 ♖f2 (threat: 3 ♕f3#) 2...♗xd1 3 ♖xd1# or 2...♗e2 3 ♕xe2#;
1...f1♗+ 2 ♖f2 (threat: 3 ♕f3#) 2...♖xd1 3 ♖xd1#;
1...f1♗ 2 ♖f2 and 3 ♕f3#;
1...f1♗ 2 ♖f2 (threat: 3 ♕f3#) 2...♕e2 3 ♕xe2#;

Coming Up In the November *CHES*

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Further analysis and tips from **Danny Gormally**

Strugnell on Tkachiev