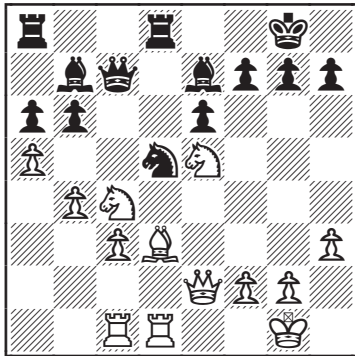


Exercise 16

(Zeuner – Levi, 1999)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 4.Bxd3 d6
5.Nf3 Nf6 6.O-O e6 7.Qe2 Nbd7 8.Rd1
Qc7 9.a4 Be7 10.Na3 a6 11.h3 0-0
12.Be3 Nc5 13.Bxc5 Qxc5 14.e5 dxe5
15.Nxe5 b6 16.Nac4 Bb7 17.Rac1 Rfd8
18.b4 Qc7 19.a5 Nd5



Is Black Safe? **No**

Commentary

The only chink in Black's position is the undefended Queen on c7. White is unable to lift a Rook out due to the pawn on h3 (stopping Rd3-h3) and the Bishop on e7 (stopping Rd4-h4). The lack of center pawns means White will not have a free hand to bring in extra troops. Had White's Q-side pawns not been so advanced, it would have been a case of the battle being lost (or at least, drawn) for want of a nail.

Analysis, Variations, and Notes

20.Bxh7+ Kxh7 21.Qh5+ Kg8 22.Qxf7+ Kh7 23.Qg6+

23.axb6 immediately would have given White a large advantage as well, but this is better.

23...Kh8

23...Kh7 leads to a different verse of the same song.

24.Qxe6+ Kh7 25.axb6!

The critical resource, without which White's attack would founder. Black can choose how he dies, but that is the most that can be said of his position. One natural option is 25...Qc8 26.Qg6+ Kg8 27.Qf7+ Kh7 28.Rxd5 Bxd5 29.Qxe7 Rb8 30.Rd1 Bxc4 31.Rxd8 Qxd8 32.Qxd8 Rxd8 33.Nxc4, when Black's Rook is tied down.

Game Continuation

White found the critical attack here.

20.Bxh7+ Kxh7 21.Qh5+ Kg8 22.Qxf7+ Kh7 23.Qg6+ Kh8 24.axb6! Qc8 25.Nf7+ Kg8 26.Nce5 Rf8 27.Qh5 Rxf7 28.Qxf7+ Kh7 29.Qh5+ Kg8 30.c4 [1-0]