Winning Quickly at Chess Series

CATASTROPHES & TACTICS IN THE CHESS OPENING

Volume 6: Open Sicilians

Winning in 15 Moves or Less: Chess Tactics, Brilliancies & Blunders in the Chess Opening

CARSTEN HANSEN

Winning Quickly at Chess: Catastrophes & Tactics in the Chess Opening – Volume 6: Open Sicilians

Chess Tactics, Brilliancies & Blunders in the Chess Opening

by Carsten Hansen

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INTRODUCTION

Thanks for picking up this book. I sincerely hope you will enjoy reading the book as much as I have writing it.

We all dream of winning our games fast, using excellent opening preparation, flashy tactics and then mate our opponents. However, it rarely goes like that. Usually, the games average around 40 moves, contain enough blunders on both sides to have both you and your opponent horrified after the game. However, what I have found is that many games, even amongst the strongest players, contain errors and mistakes, some quite significant ones, as soon as the players depart the theory that is known to them.

This book, the first in a series of five, aim to take a look at some of those games, but only the ones that are of 15 moves or shorter. Of course, for a game to end within 15 moves, one of the players has to have made one or more serious mistakes. I have left out games where a piece is threatened and the player forgot to move it, touched the wrong piece or such things. However, I have included games that include typical mistakes, even if they seem banal.

As for the games, they are typically between players with a rating of at least 2350 and often well more than that, although I have made some exceptions when I found a game of particular interest or value; you will find games by players rated above 2700 in this book. Furthermore, I have included some older games, but where the players would most certainly have been rated above 2350 if rating had existed at that time.

The variations covered in this volume are:

- The Najdorf Variation
- The Scheveningen Variation
- The Dragon & Accelerated Dragon Variations
- The Classical Variation including the Richter-Rauzer & Sozin Attack
- The Taimanov, Kan & Paulsen Variations
- The Sveshnikov & Kalashnikov Variations

In opening encyclopedia terms, these openings have the Chess Informant Opening code of B32-B39, B41-B49, B54-B99. There is a total of 109 main games, but with many more complete games in the notes.

Should you have any comments, corrections or compliments, please do not hesitate to send them to carstenchess@gmail.com

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Good luck and enjoy!

Carsten Hansen
Bayonne, NJ
October 2017

CHAPTER ONE
Najdorf Variation

Game # 1
M.Justin (2364) – L.Mazi (2354) B90
Slovenian Team Ch (Bled) 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bg7 10.f3

What is Black's best continuation?

This move is a big mistake. The main lines are 10.h3, 10.Be2, and 10.Qd2.

10...Ne3! White resigned! This was also the end station for Wagman-Rashkovsky, 1992 while some 22 other games in my database continued a bit longer which absolutely is understandable until it has been determined if Black can extract his knight again. For instance, 10...Ne3!, and now:
11.Qd3 (11.Qd2 Bxd4 12.Bf2 Qb6 13.Nd5 Qxb2 14.Rc1 Nc6? (Black can do even better with 14...e6 15.Bxe3 Be5 16.Nc7+ Kd8 17.Nxa8 Bc3 and Black should be winning) 15.Bxe3 Bxe3 16.Qxe3 Kf8 and Black is only up a pawn, Vlassis-Tsomis, Peristeri 1995) 11...Bxd4! (the point behind the previous move, now White cannot recapture because of …Nxc2) 12.Bf2 Qb6 13.Bxe3

Bxe3 14.Nd5 Qxb2 15.Qxe3 Qxa1+ 16.Kd2 Kf8 17.Nb6 was played in Leko-Grischuk, Beijing 2014, and now Black's best continuation would have been 17...Be6 18.Nxa8 Nd7 19.Nb6 Nxb6 20.Qxb6 Kg7 followed by ...Rc8 and Black is winning. Yes, even Peter Leko has fallen into this mess!
0–1

Game # 2
N.Fercec (2450) – M.Zufic (2461) B90
Zadar 2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Qf3

The main lines typically start with 8.Be3 and then continue with 8...Nbd7 (or 8...Be7 9.Qf3) 9.g4 or 9.Qf3 with typical sharp play.

8...h5 9.Be3 Nbd7 10.0–0–0 Rc8

Black has also tried 10...Bg4?

Why is this move a blunder?

11.hxg4 hxg4 12.Qxf6! Nxf6 (12...Rxh1 13.Qf5 Be7 14.Qxg4 Kf8 15.g3 Nf6 16.Qf3 and White has two minor pieces for the rook and is easily winning) 13.Rxh8 Qd7 14.Bb6 Qc6 15.Rxd6 Qxd6 16.Bc5 and White is winning, Heinechen-Ruiz Castillo, Guatape 2016.

11.Nd5

What is Black's best continuation?

11...Nxd5! 12.exd5 Bg4!

This time it works because the knight on f6 is gone!

13.hxg4 hxg4 In our main game, White resigned at this point and that is definitely a bit early. In another game, White continued a lot longer: 13...hxg4 14.Rxh8 gxf3 15.gxf3 Qf6 16.Bh3 Qg6 17.c3 f5 18.f4 Qf6 when Black obviously is better but there is still a lot of work to be done, Fernandez Cardoso-Arun Prasad, Badalona 2012.
0–1

Game # 3
I.Dora – P.Ostojic B90
Gloggnitz 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e6 7.Nde2

White's by far most popular move is 7.g4 which has been played well over 3000 times in my database. It is used a way to transpose from the Najdorf into a Keres Attack (5...e6 6 g4) which is otherwise not possible from a Najdorf move order. The text move, on the other hand, is incredibly rare and not very strong.

7...b5 8.a3 Bb7 9.f3

Or 9.Ng3 Nbd7 10.Bd3 Be7 11.0–0 0–0 12.f4 Rc8 13.Qe2 Nc5 14.Kh1 Nfd7 is also very comfortable for Black, Lamoureux-Gruenenwald, Switzerland 2011.

9...Nbd7 10.g4 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.h4

How should Black best continue?

12...Ne5! Or 12...Nxc3 13.Nxc3 Ne5 14.Qxd8+ Rxd8 15.Rh3 Nxf3+ 16.Kf2 Ne5 and Black has a very large advantage. Black resigned after the text move; a possible continuation was 12...Ne5! 13.Bg2 Nxc3 14.Qxd8+ Rxd8 15.Nxc3 Bxf3 with a winning position for Black.
0–1

Game # 4
M.Schaefer (2378) – T.Ringoir (2406) B90
Dortmund 2009

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f4 exf4 9.Bxf4 Nc6 10.Nd4 Nxd4

Black can also consider 10...Qb6 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Qd3 Nb4 13.Qe2 Be7 14.0–0–0 Rc8 15.a3 Rxc3 16.axb4 Rc6 with a sharp position and chances to

both sides, Baranowski-Szczepankiewicz, ICCF email 2009.

11.Qxd4 d5?

The alternatives are:

11...Qa5 12.Bc4 Bxc4 13.Qxc4 Be7 14.0–0–0 0–0 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Rxd5 b5 17.Qb3 Rac8 and now rather than 18.Bxd6 Bxd6 19.Rxd6 Rc4 20.e5 which was played in Szieberth-Vasilchenko, Budapest 1994, and should have been met with 20...Re4 with equal chances, White should have played 18.Rhd1! Rfe8 19.Rf5 Rf8 20.Kb1 with pressure against Black's position.

11...Be7 12.Be2 0–0 13.0–0–0 Qa5 14.Bxd6 Rfd8 15.Qe5 Qxe5 16.Bxe5 Ng4 17.Bf4 g5 18.Bxg4 Bxg4 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Be5 when the bishop pair provided Black some but not quite full compensation for the pawn, Rivas Crespo-Villavicencio Martinez, Tenerife 2013.

12.0–0–0 dxe4

How should White best continue?

13.Qa4+! Bd7??

Black misses White's response entirely. He should have played 13...Nd7 when 14.Qxe4 Be7 15.Bc4 Bxc4 16.Qxc4 0–0 17.Qd5 Nc5 18.Rhe1 leaves White with a large advantage.

14.Rxd7! Black resigned. After 14.Rxd7! Nxd7 (or 14...Qxd7 15.Bb5!) 15.Nd5 Rc8 16.Qxe4+ Be7 17.Bd6 Nf6 18.Qxe7+ Qxe7 19.Nxe7 Rd8 20.Nf5 White is easily winning.
1–0

Game # 5
A.Kovacevic (2558) – M.Krivokapic (2426) B90
Novi Sad 2009

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 b5 7.a4 b4 8.Nd5 Nbd7

How should White best continue?

Other attempts for Black have been:

8...e6 9.Nxf6+ Qxf6 10.g3 Bb7 11.Bg2 Nd7 12.0–0 Nc5 13.Re1 e5 14.c3 (White could also consider 14.Nb3 Nxb3 15.cxb3 Be7 16.a5 with a tiny edge) 14...bxc3 15.bxc3 Be7 16.Nf5 0–0 17.Ba3 g6 18.Ne3 and the chances are about even, Berelowitsch-Ruck, Germany 2009, 18...Rab8.

8...Nxd5 9.exd5 Bb7 10.Bc4 Nd7 11.0–0 Nb6?! (Black would be better served to play 11...Qc7 12.Ba2 g6 although White is better here too) 12.Bb3 Nxd5 13.Re1 Nf6 14.a5 Bc8?? Black is trying to prepare ...e7–e6, but he doesn't have time for this move especially after wasting two precious moves with the knight. Now it rapidly goes downhill: 15.Bg5 e6 16.Qf3 d5 17.Bxf6

Qxf6 18.Qxd5 Ra7 19.Ba4+ and Black resigned, 1–0, Fedorchuk-Njili, Cannes 2010. A possible continuation could have been 19...Bd7 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Rxe6+ and Black is, of course, completely lost.

9.Nc6! The queen is trapped and therefore Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 6
A.Khalifman (2655) – V.Popov (2465) B92
Russian Team Ch (Kazan) 1995

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 Nbd7 7 Be3 g6 8 Qd2 b5 9 a4 bxa4?!

This is not an easy choice to make. The alternative does not look all that good either, e.g. 9...b4 10 Nd5 Bb7 11 Nxf6+ Nxf6 12 f3 *(*Or *12 Qxb4 Rb8 13 f3 e5 14 Nb3 Bxe4 15 Qd2 Bb7 16 Na5,* and White is also better in this line*)* 12...Rb8 13 a5 e5 14 Nb3 d5 15 Nc5 Bxc5 16 Bxc5 dxe4 17 Qxb4 exf3 18 gxf3 with a clear advantage for White, Bykhovsky-Yudovich, Moscow 1969.

10 f3 Bb7

Or 10...Bg7 11 Rxa4 Qc7 12 Rc4 Qb7 13 Na4 d5 14 Rb4 *(*White should probably have opted for *14 exd5 Nxd5 15 Nc6 e6 16 Bf2* with a better game*)* 14...Qc7 15 e5 Nxe5 16 Nb6 Rb8 17 Nxc8 Rxb4 18 Qxb4 Qxc8 19 Qa4+ Qd7 20 Qxa6 0–0 21 0–0 Qc7 22 Ra1 Nc4 23 Bxc4 dxc4 24 Qc6 Qxc6 25 Nxc6 Nd5, and a draw was agreed upon in Tseshkovsky-Polugaevsky, Alma-Ata 1968.

11 Rxa4 Nb6?!

Black is getting himself further into trouble by not trying to finish his development before messing with White.
The safer move is 11...Bg7, and then after 12 0–0 Black has two options:
12...0–0 13 Rfa1 d5 14 Rb4 Qc8 15 exd5 Nxd5 16 Nxd5 Bxd5 17 Nf5 gxf5 18 Qxd5 e6 19 Qd2, and with bishop pair and better pawn structure, White is

clearly better,.Ganguly-Saravanan, Mumbai 2000.
12...Nc5 13 Ra3 *(13 Ra2 0–0 14 b4 Ncd7 15 Nb3 Qc7 16 Bd4 Rfc8 17 Na5* with a solid plus for White, W.Schill-S.Kudrin, Sioux Falls 2000*)* 13...0–0 was played in M.Andersen-B.Thorfinnsson, Oslo 2009, and here White should have played 14 b4!? Ncd7 15 Nb3 Qc7 16 Na5 Rfc8 17 Na4 with a clear advantage for White.

12 Rb4 Nfd7?

What should White play now?

Black needed to play 12...Qc7 13 Nb3 Nbd7, although after 14 0–0 Bg7 15 Ra1, White has the clearly better chances.

13 Nb3! Bg7

Or 13...a5 14 Rxb6! Nxb6 15 Qd4 Rg8 16 Qxb6 Qxb6 17 Bxb6 Bg7 18 Bb5+ *(18 Bxa5* is of course also plenty good*)* 18...Kf8 19 Kd2 and White has a winning material advantage.

14 Bxb6 Nxb6
And Black resigned on account 14...Nxb6 15 Qe3 losing a piece.
1–0

Game # 7
A.Sherzer (2493) – L.Chiong (2368) B93

Washington DC 2002

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 f4 Qc7 7 Nf3 g6 8 e5!? dxe5 9 fxe5 Nfd7

Or 9...Ng4 10 Nd5 Qd8 11 h3 e6 12 Nc3 Qxd1+ 13 Nxd1 Nh6 14 g4 (White can also consider 14 Nf2 Nf5 15 Ne4 Be7 16 g4 Nh4 17 Be2 with a very pleasant game for White) 14...b5 15 Be2 Bb7 16 0–0, and White has the better game, S.Polgar-R.Szuhanek, Matinhos 1994.

10 Nd5 Qd8 11 Bg5 Nb6

Black wants to remove the white knight on d5 so that he can continue his development, for instance with ...Bg7. How should White continue?

Black should give preference to 11...Nc6, but White should still gain the upper hand after 12 Qe2 h6 13 Bh4 (13 e6 Nb6 14 exf7+ Kxf7 15 Nxb6 Qxb6 16 Bc1 Bf5 17 c3) 13...g5 14 0–0–0! gxh4 15 e6 Bg7 16 exd7+ Bxd7 17 a3 e6 18 Qe3, and White has the initiative.

12 Nf6+! exf6 13 Qxd8+ Kxd8 14 Bxf6+
White ends up with an extra exchange and pawn. Black decided to call it quits.
1–0

Game # 8

M.Novik (2471) – A.Zubritskiy (2414) B93
St.Petersburg Blitz 2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f4 e6 7.Bd3 b5 8.e5 b4 9.Ne4?

How should Black best react to White's aggressive development?

White should play 9.exf6 bxc3 10.fxg7 (10.Qf3 Ra7 11.fxg7 Bxg7 12.bxc3 with initiative and better chances) 10...Bxg7 11.bxc3 Bb7 12.Qg4 (12.0–0! Rg8 13.Rf2 Nd7 14.Rb1 would have been clearly better for White) 12...Bf6 13.Rb1 Qc7 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Qxe6+ Be7 16.f5 Nd7 17.Bg5 Nc5 18.Qe3 h6! 19.Bh4 0–0! and Black has stabilized the situation and has the better chances, Todorovic-Rajna, Pancevo 1987.

9...dxe5! 10.fxe5 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 Qh4+ White resigned.
0–1

Game # 9
D.Kacakovski (2122) – A.Battey (2396) B94
Paracin 2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Bc4 Qb6 8.Qd2 e6 9.0–0–0 Nc5

Black should give preference to 9...Be7 10.Be3 Nc5 11.f3 Qc7 12.Bb3 b5

13.Kb1 Bb7 14.Kc1 Bc8 15.Kb1 Bb7 with chances to both sides, Sychev-Oparin, Moscow 2015.

10.Rhe1 Be7

How should White best continue?

11.Nf5! exf5 12.exf5 0–0 13.Rxe7 Qb4

Or 13...Ncd7 14.Qxd6 Qxd6 15.Rxd6 and White is winning.

14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Qf4 Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 10
D.Cerovic (2211) – D.Kojovic (2386) B94
Vrnjacka Banja 2009

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.Be2 b5 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Nd5 Qc5??

How should White best continue?

Black should probably have accepted that the knight fork on c7 will just be a reality and then play 12...Bb7 although 13.Nc7+ Kd8 14.Nxa8 Bxa8 15.Bf3 Rg8 16.0–0 is clearly better for White.

13.Rb3!?

The text move is very good, but 13.Qa5! is completely decisive. Black has nothing better than 13...Nb6, losing a piece.

13...e5

Black's best chance was 13...Nb6 but 14.Bxb5+ axb5 15.Rxb5 Nc4 16.Qc3 Qa3 17.Qxc4 Bh6 18.0–0 is winning for White.

14.Nf5 Qc6 15.Qa5 Black resigned. White's invasion is complete.
1–0

Game # 11
Nguyen Thai Dai Van (2445) – M.Marek (2389) B94
Prague 2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.f4 h6 8.Bxf6 gxf6?

What is White's strongest continuation?

Black should have given preference to 8...Nxf6 9.e5 dxe5 10.fxe5 Ng4 11.e6 Bxe6 12.Nxe6 Qxd1+ 13.Rxd1 fxe6 14.Bd3 0–0–0 when White has compensation for the pawn but not more than that, Karthikeyan-Arun Prasad, Kolkata 2012.

9.Qh5! Nc5?

Or 9...b5 10.a4 Bb7 11.axb5 axb5 12.Rd1 b4 13.Bc4 Rh7 14.Nd5 and White is winning.

10.Bc4! e6 11.f5! Qa5 12.0–0

Black is completely busted. The end is near!

12...Qb6 13.Kh1 Bg7 14.fxe6 0–0 15.e7! Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 12
B.Molnar (2365) – R.Ruck (2450) B95
Hungarian Ch (Pecs) 1998

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qd3 h6 8 Bh4 Nbd7 9 Be2

This is a fairly tame continuation but Black should not have too many worries after 9 0–0–0 either, e.g. 9...Be7 10 f4 g5!? 11 fxg5 Ne5 (11...Ng4 12 Nf3 Nde5 13 Qd4 hxg5 14 Bg3 f6 15 Be2 Bd7 16 Nxg5 Nc6 17 Qd2 Nge5 18 Nh3 Qa5 19 Nf4 0–0–0 20 Qe3, and White has the better chances, J.Timman-G.Kamsky, Amsterdam 1996) 12 Qd2 Nfd7 13 Nf3 hxg5 14 Bg3 Qa5 15 Kb1 Nxf3 16 gxf3 Ne5 17 Be2 is slightly better for White, J.Radulski-S.Marjanovic, Vrnjacka Banja 2005

9...Ne5

9...b5 10 0–0–0 Qc7 11 f4 Nc5 12 Qe3 b4 13 Nb1 (My computer prefers 13 e5, although after 13...bxc3 14 exf6 cxb2+ 15 Kxb2 g5 16 fxg5 hxg5 17 Bxg5 Rb8+ only Black can be better) 13...Bb7?! (I don't see anything wrong with 13...Nfxe4) 14 Bxf6 gxf6 15 Nd2 h5 16 Kb1 Bh6 17 g3 h4 18 N4b3 (18 Bf3 Rc8 19 Nc4 looks like an interesting alternative) 18...Ke7 19 Nxc5 Qxc5 20 Qd3 a5 21 Nb3 Qb6 22 Rhf1 Rhd8 with chances to both sides, G.Sigurjonsson-L.Barczay, Havana 1966.

10 Qh3

While this is a relatively common idea in the lines where White plays either Qd3 or Qf3, in this particular position it is not particularly good. Some alternatives are:

10 Qe3 g5 (10...Ng6!?) 11 Bg3 Bd7 12 h4 Rg8 13 hxg5 hxg5 14 Nf3 Qa5 15 Bxe5 dxe5 (15...Ng4 16 Qd2 Nxe5 looks like a decent alternative for Black) 16 Nxg5 Rc8 17 Nh7 (17 Rd1 Qb4 18 Qc1 Be7 19 Kf1 Bc6 is a sharp and interesting alternative) 17...Be7 18 Nxf6+ Bxf6 19 Qf3 Rg6 was played in Z.Vukovic-M.Cebalo, Pula 1991, and here White should have opted for 20 0–0–0 with the better chances.

10 Qd2 g5 (or 10...Ng6 11 Bg3 e5 12 Nb3 b5 13 a3 Bb7 14 Bd3 Be7 15 Qe2 0–0 16 0–0 Re8 with a pleasant game for Black, J.Szabo-B.Ivkov, Dresden 1959) 11 Bg3 b5 12 f4 gxf4 13 Qxf4 b4 14 Nd1 Bb7 15 Nf2 Ng6 16 Qe3 h5!? 17 h3 as played in I.Saric-S.Atalik, Ikaria 1994, and here I like 17...h4 18 Bh2 Qb6 with a pleasant game for Black.

10 Qd1 g5 11 Bg3 b5 12 Nf3 Qc7 13 Qd4 Nfd7 (Black can also consider

13...Nxf3+ 14 Bxf3 e5 15 Qd3 Be6, and he shouldn't be any worse) 14 0–0–0 Rb8 15 a3 Rb6 16 h4 g4 17 Nh2 h5 18 f4 gxf3 19 gxf3 Rg8 with a complicated position and chances to both sides, S.Zakic-V.Loginov, Belgrade 1988.

10...Ng6!? 11 Bg3 h5

11...Bd7!? also looks good for Black. But he has another idea in mind...

12 f3??

What did White overlook?

12 Bh4 is the only move, although 12...Nxh4 13 Qxh4 b5 is very nice for Black.

12...h4 And White resigned, since 12...h4 13 Bf2 Nf4 traps the queen. Ouch!
0–1

Game # 13
A.Urzica – E.Ungureanu B96
Romania 1976

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Qc7 10.Qe2 Nfd7 11.0–0–0 Bb7 12.Qg4 h6??

How should White continue?

Not a fortunate decision. The alternatives are:

12...Qb6 13.Be2 Nxe5 14.Qh3 Nbd7 15.Rhe1 h6 16.Bf3 Bxf3 17.Nxf3 Bd6 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 with chances to both sides, Vallejo Pons-Bromberger, Bahia Feliz 2011.

12...Qxe5 13.Bd3 Be7 14.Bxe7 Kxe7 15.Rhe1 h5 16.Nf5+ Kf8 17.Qh4 g5 18.Qxg5 Qf6 19.Qxf6 Nxf6 was played in Steingrimsson-Van Wely, Reykjavik 1994, and now 20.Be4! is much better for White.

13.Nxe6! Qxe5 14.Nc7+! Qxc7 15.Qe2+ Black resigned because after the text move, 15.Qe2+ Black runs into 15...Ne5 16.Qxe5+ Qxe5 17.Rd8# - beautiful finish.
1–0

Game # 14
J.Timman (2480) – L.Polugaevsky (2645) B96
Hilversum 1973

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Nbd7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0–0–0 b5 10 Bd3 Bb7 11 Rhe1 h6!?

This is an interesting choice that is still relatively unexplored.

12 Qh3

12 Bh4 Be7 13 Nd5 (13 Qe2?! was played in D.Minic-M.Milicevic, Yugoslavia 1975, but Black should just be doing very well after 13...b4 14 Nb1 Nc5, and only Black can be better) 13...Nxd5?! (Black can take the piece: 13...exd5! 14 Nf5 Kf8! is better for Black) 14 exd5 Bxh4 15 Nxe6 fxe6 16 Qh5+ Kd8 17 Qxh4+ Nf6 18 dxe6 Re8 19 g4 Qc5 20 Qg3 Rc8, and White has some, but possibly not full compensation for the sacrifices piece, E.Geller-L.Polugaevsky, Kislovodsk 1972.

12...0–0–0 13 Bxf6

The only real alternative for White is 13 f5 which should not cause Black too many headaches after 13...e5! 14 Nb3 (14 Ne6? hxg5! 15 Qxh8 fxe6 16 fxe6 Nc5 17 Qh3 g4, and Black is winning, B.Spassky-J.Donner, Amsterdam 1973) 14...Be7 15 Bxf6 Nxf6 16 a4 bxa4 17 Nxa4 Kb8 18 Qg3 d5 19 exd5 Nxd5 20 Kb1 Nf4, and Black has taken over the initiative, Liu Qingnan-Zhou Jianchao, Xinghua 2014.

13...Nxf6

If Black recaptures with the pawn, 13...gxf6 White obtains an advantage with 14 f5 e5 15 Ne6! fxe6 16 fxe6 Kb8 17 exd7, and White has the better chances on account of the weak light squares in Black's position.

14 Nd5?!

White can also consider 14 a4 bxa4 15 Nxa4 Kb8 with more or less even chances.

14...Qa5

Black decides to leave the knight be on d5. How should White now continue?

Black should have opted for 14...Nxd5 15 exd5 Bxd5, and now 16 a4 Qb6 17 axb5 Qxd4 18 Be4 Qxe4 (Black probably avoided 18...Qa4 because after 19 Rxd5 Qa1+ 20 Kd2 Qa5+ 21 b4 Qxb4+ 22 c3 Qa3 23 Rb1 White is doing rather well) 19 Rxe4 Bxe4 20 bxa6 Kd7 21 Rd4 Bc6 22 b4 Be7 23 Qb3 Rb8 24 c4 Rhc8 25 Kd1 d5 with a complicated endgame-like position that eventually ended in a draw, but at this point, it could have gone either way, A.Kosteniuk-S.Karjakin, Wijk aan Zee 2003.

15 Nb3! Qxa2 16 Nc3
The queen is trapped.
1–0

Game # 15
D.Canda (2360) – J.Boudy (2390) B96
Havana 1986

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qc7 8 Bd3 Nbd7 9 Qe2 b5 10 0–0–0 Bb7

Black should not play 10...b4? at this point: 11 Nd5! exd5 12 exd5+ Be7 13 Rhe1 0–0 (13...Nb8 14 Bxf6 gxf6 15 Bf5 Ra7 16 Qh5 followed by Re4 and Rde1) 14 Qxe7 Re8 15 Qxe8+ Nxe8 16 Rxe8+ Nf8 17 Rde1?! (White throws a good chunk of his advantage away. Instead 17 Bd8 Qc5 18 Nc6 ties Black up completely to suffer for a while) 17...Qb7 18 R1e7 Qb6, and here the

game is recorded as ended with a victory for Black, 0–1, in M.Fuentes-A.Cabrera, Lima 2000, although White cannot be any worse.

11 Rhe1 b4?

Black simply does not have time for this challenging move.

12 Nd5! Nxd5

Or 12...Qc5 13 Nb3 Qc8 14 Bxf6 gxf6 15 Na5, and Black is completely busted.

13 exd5 Bxd5

Here 13...e5 is not any better: 14 Nc6 Bxc6 15 dxc6 Nc5 16 Bc4 Ne6 17 Bxe6 fxe6 18 Qc4 Qf7

How does White win the fastest?

19 Rxe5! (Equal number of points for 19 c7 which typically will lead to the same line) 19...dxe5 20 c7 and Black is totally done due to the threats of c8Q, Qc6+ or Rd8+.

14 Be4

How does White meet 14...Bc4 and 14...Bxe4?

14...Bc4

14...Bxe4 15 Nxe6!! fxe6 16 Qxe4 with the dual threat on e6 and a8.

15 Nxe6!!
This line is a little trickier: 15 Nxe6 Qc8 (15...Bxe2? 16 Nxc7#) 16 Qxc4!? (White also wins convincingly after 16 Qg4 Bxe6 17 Bxa8) 16...Qxc4 17 Bd5 Ne5 18 Bxc4 fxe6 19 fxe5 and White is a piece up in the endgame.
1–0

Game # 16
C.Van den Berg – J.H.Donner B96
Noordwijk 1965

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Nbd7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0–0–0 Rb8

This move is rather slow. The normal moves are either 9...Be7 or the immediate 9...b5.

10.Bd3 b5 11.Rhe1 b4

How should White continue?

Alternatively, 11...Be7, and now:

12.Nd5!? (this is a typical sacrifice, but ultimately not as strong as 12.e5!) 12...Nxd5? (Black's best line is 12...exd5 13.Nf5 Kf8 14.Qg3 Nc5 15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.e5 dxe5 17.fxe5 Qc7 18.exf6 Qxg3 19.hxg3 Be6 20.Be2 Ne4 21.fxg7+ Kxg7 22.Bf4 Rbc8 when White has a small but clear positional advantage) 13.exd5 Bxg5 14.Rxe6+ Be7 15.Qg3 Nc5 16.Rxe7+ Qxe7 17.Re1 Be6 18.Nc6 Qf6 19.Nxb8 0–0 20.dxe6 Rxb8 21.f5 with an extra pawn and much better chances for White, Bezgodov-Fokin, Orsk 2001.

12.e5! dxe5 13.fxe5 Bb7 14.Qf4 (14.Qg3! then 14...Nh5 15.Qh4 transposes to the game and 14...Nd5 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Bxb5 axb5 (or 16...0–0 17.Nxe6) 17.Ncxb5 Qb6 18.Nd6+ Kf8 19.Rf1 Bf3 20.Nc4 and White is winning) 14...Nh5?! 15.Qh4 Bxg5+ 16.Qxg5 g6 17.Bxb5 0–0 18.Nxe6 Qb6 19.Nxf8 Nxf8 20.Bc4 Ng7 21.Qf6 and White is completely winning, Quinteros-Rodriguez, Buenos Aires 1975.

12.Nd5! Qb7?? 13.Bxa6! Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 17
M.Arnold (2433) – P.Skovgaard (2284) B96
Oslo 2010

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Nbd7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0–0–0 b5 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.Kb1 Qb6

How should White continue?

This move is a bit unusual but not bad despite moving the queen a second time within just a few moves; normally, such things are not to be recommended in sharp openings such as the Najdorf. Alternatively, 11...Be7 12.f5 e5 13.Nb3 b4 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 h5 17.Rhe1 Qb6 18.Bf1 was played in Enders-V.Gurevich, Cappelle-la-Grande 1997, and now 18...Bg5 followed by ...Nf6 would have been fine for Black.

12.Nd5??

White should have played 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.Rhf1 Be7 with chances to both sides.

12...exd5 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5 Nxe5!? Or 14...Ne4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qf4 Qg6 and White does not have enough compensation for the sacrificed piece.
0–1

Game # 18
S.Bromberger (2518) – E.Najer (2681) B96
German Bundesliga 2009

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qc7 8 Bd3

Be7 9 Nf3

9 0–0!? is another option.

9...Nc6 10 0–0

An alternative is 10 Qe2, e.g. 10...h6 11 Bh4 Nh5! 12 Qd2 (12 g3? is met by 12...g5! 13 fxg5 hxg5 14 Nxg5 Bxg5 15 Bxg5 Nxg3 16 Qg2 Nxh1 17 Bf6 Rf8 18 0–0–0 Bd7 19 Rxh1 Ne5, and White has some but not full compensation for the exchange) 12...Nxf4?! (Ribli mentions 12...e5 13 Nd5 Bxh4+ 14 Nxh4 Qd8 15 Nf3 Nxf4 with equal chances in his notes to the game in ChessBase Magazine) 13 Qxf4 g5 14 Nxg5 hxg5 15 Bxg5 Ne5 16 Bf6 Rg8 17 0–0–0 with somewhat better chances for White, J.Ehlvest-V.Eingorn, Zagreb 1987.

10...h6 11 Bh4 g5 12 fxg5 hxg5 13 Bxg5 Ng4 14 Qd2 Nce5

What is the better move for White? 15 h3 or 15 Bf4, and what happens after the other move?

15 h3??

15 Bf4!? Bd7 16 h3 (now it can be played) 16...Qb6+ 17 Kh1 0–0–0 with a complicated game and chances to both sides; Black has more or less adequate compensation for the pawn.

15...Qc5+

White had forgotten this check and had to resign immediately on account of

15...Qc5+ 16 Kh1 Nxf3 17 Rxf3 Bxg5 and White is a piece down.
0–1

Game # 19
A.Beliavsky (2620) – M.Stean (2420) B97
Luzern ol 1982

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Qd2 Qxb2 9 Nb3 Nbd7 10 Bd3 b5

Black has some tried other moves as well at this point:

10...d5!? 11 Rb1 (11 Bxf6 Nxf6 12 a3 dxe4 13 Na4 Qxa1+ 14 Nxa1 exd3 15 Nb6 Rb8 16 Qc3 Bd7 17 Nxd7 Nxd7 18 f5 e5 19 Qxd3 Be7 with fairly equal chances) 11...Qa3 12 exd5 Bb4 13 dxe6 fxe6 14 0–0 Nd5 15 Qe2 Bxc3 16 Qxe6+ Ne7 17 Qe3 was seen in M.Rodin-V.Popov, Togliatti 2001, and now Black should best have continued with 17...Nf6 18 Bc4 Qb4 with a clear advantage.

10...Be7 11 0–0 Qa3, and now:

12 Qe1 h6 13 Bh4 Qb4?! (13...e5!? may possibly just be better for Black; the queen is perfectly safe on a3 and Black can now focus on completing his development) 14 Bf2 Nc5 15 Nxc5 dxc5 16 h3 Qa5 17 Rd1 was played in V.Kotronias-S.Shipov, Athens 1997, and here 17...Qc7 would have left White with barely sufficient compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

12 Rae1 h6 13 Bxf6 gxf6 (13...Bxf6!? is even better for Black) 14 f5 Ne5 15 fxe6 fxe6 16 Ne2 Bd7 17 Nf4 Bd8 with a complicated position with chances to both sides Beliavsky-Bronstein, Yaroslavl 1982.

11 0–0 Nc5??

Find the win for White?

Black should instead have played 11...Qa3 12 e5 h6 (or 12...dxe5 13 fxe5 Ng4 14 Bxb5 Ngxe5 15 Rae1 Bc5+ 16 Nxc5 Qxc5+ 17 Be3 Qc7 18 Bxd7+ Qxd7 19 Qf2 with excellent compensation for the pawn) 13 Bxf6 gxf6 14 Bxb5 (14 Nb1 Qa4 15 Nc3 Qa3 is potentially a draw) 14...axb5 15 Nxb5 Qa4 16 Nc7+ Kd8 17 Nxa8 Qxa8 18 exd6 Rg8 is likely fine for Black.

12 Nxc5 dxc5

12...b4 13 Bb5+ axb5 14 Nxb5 also does not work for Black.

13 Bxf6 gxf6 14 Rab1 Qa3 15 Nxb5! Black resigned.
The last move is the tough move you had to spot at the end of the sequence! 15 Nxb5 axb5 16 Bxb5+ Ke7 17 Rbd1 mates, and if Black doesn't recapture on b5 he is obviously also toast.
1–0

Game # 20
A.Savanovic (2428) – I.Nepomniachtchi (2628) B97
European Ch (Budva) 2009

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 b5 11.Rb3

The text move is quite rare. The normal move is 11.fxe6.

11...Qa5!?

Or 11...Qc5 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Ncxb5 axb5 14.Bxb5+ Ke7 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.0–0 Bg7 17.Rc3 Qa7 18.Rg3 was played in Estrin-H.Sorensen, ICCF corr 1978, when Black here should have given preference to 18...Rg8 19.Kh1 e5 20.Bc4 Qxd4 21.Qxd4 exd4 22.Bxg8 Bf8 23.Bd5 Ra5 and Black cannot be worse.

12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Be2 b4 14.Bh5

White should have considered 14.fxe6 fxe6 (but not 14...bxc3 15.Rxc3 when the discovered check with the rook will win serious material for White) 15.0–0 h5 16.Nd1 Qc5 17.Ne3 with what seems like better chances for White.

14...bxc3 15.Rxc3

This is the same idea we saw above after 14.fxe6. Can Black defend or does he lose material?

15...Ke7!! This move came as a such a surprise for White that he resigned at this point, being a piece down!
0–1

Game # 21
M.Bessenay (2400) – S.Fedder (2315) B97
World Team Ch U26 (Teeside) 1974

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Nb3 Qa3 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Be2 Nd7!?

The text move is quite rare compared to the main lines which are 11...Nc6 and 11...h5, but it scores rather well.

12.Bh5

Or 12.0–0 h5 13.Kh1 h4 14.h3 Be7 15.Rad1 b5 16.e5 fxe5 17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.Bxb5+ Kf8 19.Be2 Bb7 20.Nd4 Kg7 with a comfortable game for Black, Patrici-Toro Solis de Ovando, ICCF email 2004.

12...Nc5 13.Nd4?!

White should probably have tried 13.f5!? Nxb3 14.cxb3 Bg7 15.0–0 0–0 16.Rf3 Bd7 17.Raf1 Rac8 18.Kh1 Qc5 when White has compensation for the pawn but no more than that, Velimirovic-Bogdanovic, Yugoslavia 1973.

13...b5!

Also worth a thought is 13...Qa5 14.0–0 Na4 15.f5 Qxc3 16.Qxc3 Nxc3 17.fxe6 Nxe4 18.Rae1 d5 19.Bxf7+ Kd8 20.Rf5 Nd6 and White does not have enough compensation for the sacrificed material, Efimenko-Wojtaszek, Artek 2000.

14.f5

This is a significant mistake. How should Black best continue?

14...Bh6!

Now White is, in fact, completely lost because he cannot keep the knight on c3 guarded.

15.Qxh6 Qxc3+ White resigned because he loses the knight on d4 as well.
0–1

Game # 22
Y.Estrin – S.Zhukhovitsky B98
Soviet Ch semifinal (Leningrad) 1957

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0–0–0 Nc6 10.Be2 Bd7 11.Qg3 0–0–0

Or 11...h6 12.Bh4 and now Black uses the standard ploy 12...g5 13.fxg5 Rg8 14.Qe3 hxg5 to gain control over the dark squares and e5 in particular; and now 15.Bg3 Ne5 16.Nf3 Nfg4 17.Qd4 0–0–0 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 with chances to both sides, Donchev-Vogt, Trnava 1982.

12.Rhf1 h6 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Bh5

White applies pressure against the weakest spot in Black's position, but he

missed something. Can you spot it?

14...Nxd4! 15.Rxd4 Qc5 Ouch! White can't protect both rook and bishop, therefore losing a piece, White resigned.
0–1

CHAPTER TWO

Scheveningen Variation

Game # 23
S.Dovliatov (2339) – J.Maherramzade (2422) B80
Azerbaijan 1999

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Qc7 8.0–0 Nc6 9.Re1 Bd7 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Na4 Be7 12.c4 c5??

Black, focused on his own plans, putting a bishop on c6, take control of the center, and prevent White from c4–c5, completely misses White's counter-stroke.

The alternatives are:

12...0–0 13.c5!? Rad8 (or 13...dxc5 14.b3 e5 15.Qc2 with a small advantage for White) 14.Bf4 e5 15.cxd6 Bxd6 16.Bg5 Be7 17.Qc2 c5 18.Rac1 c4 19.b3 Bxa4 20.bxa4 c3 with a good game for Black, Sutovsky-J.Polgar, Rishon Le Ziyyon 2006.

12...e5 13.c5 dxc5 14.Qc2 0–0 15.Be3 Rab8 16.Bxc5 Be6 17.b3 Rfc8 18.Rac1 a5 19.Red1 and White is clearly better, Emms-Arakhamia Grant,

Scarborough 2004.

13.e5 Black resigned
1–0

Game # 24
T.Baron (2528) – C.Menezes (2404) B90
Karlsruhe 2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h4 e6

Black could have played 6...e5 to keep it a Najdorf, for instance, 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.a4 h6 10.Be3 b6 11.Bc4 Bb7 12.f3 Nh5 13.Bf2 Ndf6 14.g3 Qc7 15.Qe2 0–0 16.0–0–0 Rfc8 with chances to both sides, Nepomniachtchi-Vachier Lagrave, Leuven 2017.

7.g4 h6 8.Bg2 Nfd7 9.Be3 Be7

Black has a few alternatives at this point, one of them is 9...b5 10.e5 d5 11.f4 Qc7 12.0–0 Bc5 13.Qf3 Nc6 14.Nce2 Bb7 15.c3 g6 16.Qf2 h5 17.g5 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Be7 which was played in Rogic-Boensch, Austria 2009, and here 19.Rac1 Qb6 20.Bf3 Nf8 21.Rc2 would have promised White a small edge.

10.g5 Ne5

Or 10...hxg5 11.hxg5 Rxh1+ 12.Bxh1 Ne5 13.Qh5 Nbc6 (13...g6 14.Qh8+ Bf8 15.Bf4 Nbd7 16.0–0–0 is quite uncomfortable for Black) 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.f4 (15.0–0–0 Rb8 16.Qe2 is a bit better for White) 15...Nd7? (15...Nc4! would have been okay for Black) 16.0–0–0 Qc7 17.g6 f6 18.Qh8+ Bf8 19.Qg8 and White is winning; the end came soon: 19...Nc5 20.Bxc5 dxc5 21.e5 Ra7 22.Ne4 fxe5 23.Nd6+ and Black resigned, 1–0, Frink-Szaszak, Gyula 1999.

11.gxh6 gxh6 12.Qe2 b5 13.0–0–0 Bb7

How should White best continue?

14.Qh5! Qd7 15.Bh3! And Black resigned. There is no good was to deal with the threat of Nxe6. For instance, 15.Bh3 Kd8 16.Nd5! Qe8 17.Bxe6! fxe6 18.Nxe6+ Kd7 19.Qf5 Qf7 20.Nc5+ Kc6 21.Qxf7 Nxf7 22.Nxe7+ Kc7 23.Nxb7 Kxb7 24.Rhg1 and White is winning. Note that 15.f4 Nec6 16.f5 Nxd4 (or 16...e5 17.Ne6) 17.Bxd4 Rg8 18.Bh3 exf5 19.Nd5 and Black's position is completely collapsing.
1–0

Game # 25
Yu Yangyi (2574) – Zeng Chongsheng (2350) B81
Chinese Team Ch 2010

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.g4 a6 7.g5 Nfd7 8.Be3 b5 9.f4 Bb7 10.Bg2 Nb6 11.0–0 N8d7 12.Kh1

Or 12.a3 Rc8 13.f5 e5 14.Ne6!? Qe7 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 and here Black resigned, 1–0, in Spasov-Tringov, Skopje 1998, and while it does look wildly premature, the situation is pretty scary, e.g., 16...h6 17.Qh5! Rxc2 18.Rac1 Rxg2+ 19.Kxg2 Bxd5+ 20.Kg3 Bc4 21.b3 g6 22.fxg6 Qxe6 23.gxf7+ Kd8 24.bxc4 and White is winning.

12...Be7

How should White best continue?

13.f5! e5

Or 13...exf5 14.Nxf5 Bf8 (14...0–0? 15.Bxb6! Nxb6 16.Qd4 f6 17.Nxe7+ and White wins a piece) 15.Qd4 f6 16.a4 Nc4 17.axb5 Nxe3 18.Nxe3 Qb6 19.Qc4! and Black is completely busted.

14.Ne6! fxe6 15.Qh5+! Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 26
K.Kulaots (2553) – A.Volodin (2379) B81
Tallinn 2008

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.g4 Nc6 7.g5 Nd7 8.Be3 Be7 9.Rg1 0–0 10.Qe2

The alternatives are:

10.Qh5 g6 11.Qh6 Re8 12.0–0–0 Bf8 13.Qh4 a6 14.Qg3 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 b5 16.h4 b4 17.Ne2 Bb7 18.Bg2 Rc8 19.Kb1 Qc7 with chances to both sides, Codenotti-Gabrielian, Yerevan 2014.

10.Rg3 a6 11.Qe2 Nxd4 transposes to our main game.

10...Nxd4 11.Bxd4 a6

11...Ne5 12.Be3 b5 13.Nxb5 Rb8 14.f4 Ba6 15.a4 Nc6 16.Qd2 d5 17.exd5 exd5 18.Nd4 Qc8 19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.Bxa6 Qxa6 when Black has excellent compensation for the sacrificed pawn, Luther-Enders, Germany 1991.

12.Rg3 b5

Black has also tried 12...Re8 13.Qh5 b5 14.0–0–0 Nf8 15.Rdd3 b4

How should White continue his attack?

(or 15...e5 16.Be3 Be6 17.Kb1 g6 18.Qf3 Rc8 with a typical type of position) 16.Bxg7!! bxc3 (or 16...Kxg7 17.Rdf3 Kg8 18.Rxf7 Ra7 19.g6 h6 20.Qxh6 Bf6 21.e5! dxe5 22.Ne4 and White wins) 17.Rdf3 Ng6 18.Bxc3 Rf8 19.Bf6 Qa5 20.b4 (White has to parry the threatened mate on e1, also 20.Kd1 will do) 20...Qxb4 21.Rh3 Qe1+ 22.Kb2 Qb4+ 23.Kc1 Qe1+ 24.Kb2 Qb4+ 25.Rb3 Bxf6+ 26.gxf6 Qd4+ 27.Rbc3 Rb8+ 28.Kc1 and Black resigned, 1–0, Efimov-Naumkin, Reggio Emilia 2001.

13.Qh5

How should Black best continue: the immediate ...g7–g6 or first chase the bishop with ...e6–e5 before playing ...g7–g6?

13...g6??

Black should have played 13...e5 14.Be3 g6 15.Qh6 Re8 16.Nd5 Bf8 17.Qh4 h5 18.0–0–0 Bb7 when Black is still fully in the game.

14.Qxh7+! Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 27
D.Norris – J.Klovans (2360) B82
Adelaide 1990

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.f4 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qf3 0–0 9.Nb3 a5 10.Bb5

10.a4 Nb4 11.0–0–0 Bd7 12.g4 Qc7 13.g5 Ne8 14.Nd4 Rc8 15.Kb1 d5 16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Bd3 and White has the better chances, Van de Plassche-Matthaei, Germany 2003.

10...Nb4 11.Rc1

Or 11.0–0–0 and now: 11...Qc7 (11...a4 12.Bxa4 Nxa2+ 13.Nxa2 Rxa4 14.Nc3 Ra6 15.e5 Ne8 (15...Nd5! improves) 16.Rd3 Qc7 17.Bd4 Bd7

18.Qh5 g6

How should White best continue?

19.exd6! Bxd6 (Or 19...gxh5 20.Rg3+ Ng7 21.Rxg7+ Kh8 22.Rxf7+ Bf6 23.Bxf6+ Kg8 24.Rg7+ Kh8 25.Rxd7+ Rxf6 26.dxc7 and White is winning) 20.Qxh7+ Black resigned, 1–0, he will get mated like in our previous main game, Okike-Moore, England 1998) 12.a3 Nc6 13.g4 Na7 14.g5 Nd7 15.h4 b6 16.h5 Nc5 17.Nxc5 bxc5 18.Bc4 Rb8, was Kortschnoj-Boleslavsky, Moscow 1966, and now 19.g6! Bf6 20.gxh7+ Kh8 (or 20...Kxh7 21.e5 Bb7 22.Ne4 Be7 23.Rhg1 and Black is busted) 21.Bf2 Bb7 22.Qg3 Kxh7 23.Rhg1 Rbd8 24.Rde1 and Black's position is bound to collapse at any moment.

11...a4 12.Nxa4

Should Black now capture on a2 as planned or does he have something

better?

12...Nxa2

Black should have played 12...Bd7! 13.Bxd7 Nxd7 14.Nc3 Bh4+ (Or 14...Nxa2 15.Nxa2 Rxa2 with a good game for Black) 15.g3 Bf6 and Black will recover the pawn with better chances.

13.Bb6!

Ouch, Black's queen is trapped; he could have resigned at this point.

13...Rxa4 14.Bxd8 Rxe4+ 15.Qxe4
1–0

Game # 28
C.Landenbergue (2385) – J.Ehlvest (2625) B82
New York 1993

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.f4 Be7 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Nd5 10.Nxd5 exd5

Now White saw the following line: 11.e6 fxe6 (or 11...Bxb5 12.exf7+ Kxf7 13.Nxb5 with a sharp position) 12.Nxe6 Qa5+ 13.Bd2 when Black cannot capture on b5 because of 14.Nc7+ forking the king and the queen. What did White miss?

11.e6

The alternative is 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.0–0 Bc5 13.Be3 Nc6 14.Nf5 Bxe3+ 15.Nxe3 0–0 16.Qxd5 Qxd5 17.Nxd5 Rad8 18.Rad1 and draw agreed, ½–½, Timman-Salov, Madrid 1995.

11...fxe6

Black can also go for 11...Bxb5 12.exf7+ Kxf7 13.Nxb5 Bb4+ (or 13...Bh4+ 14.g3 Re8+ 15.Kf1 a6 16.Nc3 d4 17.gxh4 dxc3 18.Qxd8 Rxd8 and draw agreed, ½–½, Van der Wiel-Sax, Haninge 1990) 14.c3 Re8+ 15.Kd2 Kg8 16.Re1 Na6 17.Rxe8+ Qxe8 18.Qe2, Van der Wiel-Ulybin, Hoogeveen 2000, and here Black should have continued 18...Be7 19.Nd4 Nc5 with better chances for Black

12.Nxe6

White may have to bail out with 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.0–0 with some compensation for the pawn though it not quite sufficient.

12...Bb4+

The move not included in White's calculation before his 11th move.

13.Bd2??

White had to play 13.c3 Qh4+ 14.g3 (14.Kd2 Qf2+ 15.Qe2 Qxe2+ 16.Bxe2 Bxc3+ 17.bxc3 Bxe6 18.Rb1 b6 19.Ba3 Nc6 with equal chances, Fischdick-Ivanka Budinsky, Luzern ol (women) 1982) 14...Qe4+ 15.Kd2 Bxb5 16.cxb4 Ke7 17.Nf4 Kd6 18.Re1 Qxb4+ 19.Kc2 Qc4+ 20.Kb1 Re8 with a sharp position and chances to both sides, Watts-Martin, Southampton 1986.

13...Qh4+ 14.g3 Qe4+ 15.Kf2 Rf8+ Game over. White resigned.
0–1

Game # 29
I.Ivanov (2411) – R.Hamilton (2429) B82
Guelph 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.f4 d6 7.Be3 Nf6 8.g4 Nc6

This line is incredibly rare and the alternative is not seen much more frequent either 8...b5 9.g5 Nfd7 10.a3 Bb7 11.Qf3 Nc5 12.Bg2 g6 13.h4 Bg7 14.0–0–0 Nc6 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.Bd4 Bxd4 17.Rxd4 and White has the somewhat better chances, Movsesian-Joecks, Germany 1997.

9.g5 Nd7 10.Qd2

The alternative here is 10.Qe2, and now:

10...Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5 12.a3 Rb8 13.0–0–0 b4 14.axb4 Rxb4 15.Bg2 Qa5 16.Kb1 e5 17.Be3 d5?? (Very aggressive but ultimately not very good) 18.Rxd5 Rxb2+ 19.Kxb2 Ba3+ 20.Ka2 Nc5 21.Qc4 Bb4+

What is White's best move?

22.Na4!, Black resigned, 1–0, Tarjan-Gutman, Lone Pine 1981. Capturing the knight brings the queen to an unfortunate square whereas 22.Kb1 Bxc3 would leave White with some problems to solve.

10…Nc5 11.0–0–0 Bd7 12.Bg2 0–0–0 13.Nb3 Kb8 14.Qf2 Be7 15.e5 Nxb3+ 16.axb3 dxe5 17.Bb6 with a clear advantage for White, Lukov-Martinovic, Pamporovo 1982.

10...Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5 12.0–0–0 Bb7 13.a3 Nc5 14.Bg2 a5!?

Can White capture the b-pawn?

15.Nxb5?? Nb3+ Oops! What an oversight! White resigned.
0–1

Game # 30
F.Jensen – B.Andersen B84
Danish Ch (Copenhagen) 1968

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2 Be7 7.Be3 Nf6 8.Qd2 a6 9.f4 Bd7 10.Bf3 Na5!?

The alternative is 10...Qc7 11.Nb3 Rb8 12.0–0 0–0 13.Kh1 Rfe8 14.g4 Bc8 15.g5 Nd7 16.Bg2 Bf8 17.Qf2 b5 with chances to both sides, Hamam-Frhat, Cairo 2003.

11.b3

This looks a little unusual, but there is, in fact, nothing wrong with it.

11...Rc8 12.Nce2??

What is Black's best move?

White should have put the other knight on e2, 12.Nde2 b5 13.a3 0–0 14.0–0 Bc6 and Black has equalized.

12...e5! 13.Nf5 Bxf5 White resigned as he realized that the recapture 14.exf5 loses him a piece after 14...e4.
0–1

Game # 31
L.Vogt – V.Peresipkin B84
Sukhumi 1970

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6 7.f4 Nbd7 8.0–0 b5 9.Bf3 Bb7 10.e5 Bxf3 11.Nxf3 dxe5

The main alternative is 11...Ng4 12.Qe2 Qb6+ 13.Kh1 b4 14.Ne4 d5 15.Nf2 Nxf2+ 16.Rxf2 Bc5 17.Rf1 0–0 18.Qd3 Qb5 19.Bd2 Rfc8 and Black has a comfortable game, Kravtsiv-Fedorchuk, Bastia 2014.

11...Qb6+ tends to transpose to 11...Ng4 above.

12.fxe5 Bc5+?

It is always tempting to develop a piece with a check but that doesn't necessarily make it good. The better choice is 12...Ng4 13.Qe2 b4 14.Na4 (or 14.Nd1 Ndxe5 15.Nxe5 Qd4+ 16.Be3 Nxe3 17.Nxe3 Qxe5 18.Qf3 Ra7 and now White has nothing better than to go for the perpetual check: 19.Qc6+ Rd7 20.Qc8+ Rd8 21.Qc6+ Rd7 22.Qc8+ Rd8 23.Qc6+ Rd7 and draw agreed, ½–½, Kovchan-Bokros, Cappelle-la-Grande 2012) 14...Rc8 15.Bf4 Qa5 16.b3 Qb5 17.Rae1 h5 18.Qd2 Nc5 19.Nb2 Rd8 20.Qe2 Qxe2 21.Rxe2 was played in Anand-J.Polgar, Dortmund 1996, and now 21...Nh6 22.Bxh6 gxh6 23.Nc4 Be7 24.Ra1 would have left White with nothing more than a small plus.

13.Kh1 Ng4 14.Qe2

What is best, 14...0–0 or 14...Qb6?

14...Qb6

After 14...0–0 15.h3 Black has to play 15...f5! to stay in the game, but then 16.Bf4 Nh6 17.Bxh6 gxh6 18.Qd2 Rf7 19.Rad1 is clearly better for White. After the text move, however, it is over immediately...

15.Qe4! Winning a piece and therefore Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 32
H.Proehl (2365) – A.Kveinys (2515) B84

Bonn 1995

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.a3 Bb7 7.Be2 d6 8.f4 Nd7 9.0–0 Ngf6 10.Bf3 Qc7 11.Kh1 Be7 12.Qe1 0–0 13.e5

What is best, 13...Bxf3 or 13...Ne8?

White has a number of alternatives at this point:

13.b3 Rac8 14.Bb2 Rfe8 (Black can also consider 14...g6!? 15.f5 e5 16.Nde2 a5 when Black is not worse) 15.Qg3 Nc5 16.Rae1 e5? (Black has to be careful here. The text move is wrong and so is 16...Rcd8? 17.Nd5 exd5 18.Nf5 when White is winning, but; 16...g6 17.e5 dxe5 18.fxe5 Nd5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 exd5 21.Qh3 Rf8 22.e6 f6 23.Qg4 is playable for Black) 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Nf5 Bf8 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.exd5 and White has the clearly better chances, Ivanovic-Cvitan, Vrsac 1989.

13.Bd2 Nb6 14.b3 Rfe8 15.Qf2 Bf8 16.e5 Nfd5 17.exd6 Qxd6 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Bxd5 Nxd5 with a comfortable game for Black, Apicella-Cvitan, Debrecen 1992.

13.Be3 Rfe8 14.Rd1 Rac8 15.Bg1 Ba8 16.Qf2 Rb8 17.Rde1 b4 18.axb4 Rxb4 and Black has at least equalized, Saveliev-Sin, Sochi 2017.

13...Bxf3?

Black tries to interject an exchange of the light-squared bishops. The

alternatives are:

13...Ne8 14.Bxb7 Qxb7 15.Bd2 Rc8 16.Rd1 h6 17.Qg3 Kh8 18.Rfe1 Nb6 19.Ne4 Nc4 and Black has just about equalized, Ljubicic-Malac, ICCF email 2007.

13...dxe5 14.fxe5 Ne8 15.Bf4 Nb6 16.Qg3 Rd8 17.Rad1 Nc4 18.b3 Bxf3 19.Rxf3 Nxa3 20.Rfd3 when White has compensation for the pawn but not more than that, Bellia-Angelini, Novara 2011.

14.exf6 Bxf6?

Having still missed White's next move, Black continues as planned. The better choice would have been 14...Bxg2+ 15.Kxg2 Bxf6 16.Be3 when Black has two pawns and an open white king to compensate for the missing piece.

15.Nxf3! Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 33
S.Dolmatov (2615) – R.Gadjily (2443) B84
Dubai 2000

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6 7.f4 b6?!

This is rare for a reason. The main lines are 7...Be7, and 7...Qc7, both of which has been played hundreds of times.

8.Bf3

In 7...b6?!'s other outings Black has faced 8.0–0 Bb7 9.Bf3 Ra7 10.Kh1 (or 10.Be3 Nbd7 11.Qe2 Qa8 12.Bf2 Be7 13.g4 h6 14.g5 hxg5 15.fxg5 Ng8 16.g6 Bf6 17.gxf7+ Kxf7 18.Bg4 and White is winning, Opl-Prinzjakowitsch, Vienna 2009) 10...Nbd7 11.Qe1?! (11.Qe2!) 11...Qa8 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 Bxf3? (13...Nd5!) 14.Nxf3 Nd5 15.Ng5?! (15.Ne4!) 15...Nc5? (15...Be7! 16.Nxf7 0–0 17.Nxd5 Qxd5 is fine for Black) 16.Nxd5 Qxd5

17.Qf2 There is no good way to meet the threat against f7 although Black's next move only makes it worse: 17...f5 18.exf6 gxf6 19.Qxf6 Rg8 20.Be3 Bg7 21.Qf4 Qe5 22.Qf3 and Black resigned, 1–0, Ostermeyer-Barczay, Dortmund 1982.

8...Bb7

How should White best continue?

9.e5! Bxf3

Or 9...dxe5 10.Bxb7 exd4 11.Bxa8 Nbd7 12.Qf3 dxc3 13.Bb7 cxb2 14.Bxb2 Bb4+ 15.c3 Be7 16.Bxa6 with clearly better chances for White.

10.Nxf3?!

White could even improve with 10.Qxf3 dxe5 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Qxa8 and White is on the path to winning.

10...dxe5 11.fxe5?!

White would have the upper hand after 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Nxe5 .

11...Ng4

Here Black could have equalized with 11...Qxd1+ 12.Nxd1 Nfd7 and Black should have no problems.

12.Qe2 Qc7?? 13.Qe4 Black resigned as he loses a piece. We have seen this theme earlier in this chapter.
1–0

Game # 34
A.Sokolov (2566) – S.Siebrecht (2386) B84
Bad Woerishofen 2001

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Be2 Nf6 6.Nc3 Qc7 7.0–0 Be7 8.f4 d6 9.Kh1 Nbd7 10.g4

Sharp and interesting. White has tried several other things at this juncture:

10.Bf3 h6 11.f5 e5 12.Nb3 b5 13.a3 Bb7 14.Be3 0–0 15.Qe1 Rac8 16.Qf2 Rfe8 17.Rad1 Bf8 with equal chances, Riff-Sulava, Drancy 2016.

10.a4 b6 11.Bf3 Bb7 12.f5 e5 13.Nb3 0–0 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bxf6 Nxf6 16.Qd3 Rfc8 17.Rfd1 Bc6 with a pleasant position for Black, Azarov-Meskovs, Warsaw 2013.

10.Be3 0–0 11.Bf3 Nb6 12.g4 Nc4 13.Bc1 Nd7 14.Bg2 b5 15.g5 Bb7 16.b3 Ne3 17.Ncxb5 axb5 18.Bxe3 b4 when Black has compensation for the pawn, Satyapragyan-Kunte, Aurangabad 2011.

10...Nf8?!

This is an odd-looking move and, in my opinion, unnecessarily passive, although it is playable. However, 10...Nc5 11.Bd3 b5 12.g5 Nfd7 is comfortable for Black, Nguyen-Perrin, Besancon 1999.

11.g5 N6d7 12.f5 Ne5?

What is White's best continuation?

13.f6! gxf6 14.gxf6 Bd8 15.Ndb5! Game over. Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 35
R.Biolek (2412) – B.Dubessay (2384) B85
Mitropa Cup (Sibenik) 2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 Qc7 7.0–0 Nf6 8.Kh1 Be7 9.f4 d6 10.Be3 0–0 11.a4 Bd7 12.Qe1 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 e5

Black's main move is 13...Bc6 and here White has tried various things. A recent game continued with 14.Qg3 b5 15.axb5 axb5 16.Nxb5 Bxb5 17.Bxb5 Rxa1 18.Rxa1 Qxc2 19.Bd3 Qc7 20.b4 and White is marginally better, Efimenko-Navara, Wijk aan Zee 2011.

14.fxe5 dxe5

What is White's best move?

15.Qg3! and Black resigned!

This seems a little radical so let's take a look at what can happen.
15.Qg3!, and now Black has tried several things:

15...Qc6 16.Bxe5 g6 17.Qf4 Ne8 18.Nd5 Bd8 19.c4 a5 20.b3 Qe6 21.Bd4 and Black is completely busted, Batarelo-Terzic, Zadar 2013.

15...Ne8 16.Nd5 Qd6 17.Bxe5 Qe6 18.Nc7 Bh4 19.Nxe6 Bxg3 20.Nxf8 and Black resigned, 1–0, Armanda-Ramesa, Zadar 2005.

15...Kh8 16.Bxe5 Qc6 17.Nd5 Bd8 18.Bc3 Rg8 19.Nxf6 gxf6 20.Qh4 Rg6 21.Bh5 and White is winning, Haddouche-Hassan, Turin 2006.

15...Bd6 16.Rxf6 (1–0, Jukic-Zelenika, Mali Losinj 2016) 16...exd4 17.Qxd6 Qd8 18.Nd5 gxf6 19.Nxf6+ and Black could have resigned, Lyrberg-Glenne, Gausdal 1995.
1–0

Game # 36
A.Beliavsky – A.Vitolinsh B86
Soviet Ch semifinal (Riga) 1972

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0–0 Be7 8.a3

What happens on 8...Nxe4?

The main line is 8.Bb3 but there are quite a number of games with the text move as well. The idea is, of course, to tug the bishop back to a2 while a2–a3 at the same time helps to slow down Black's progress on the queenside.

8...Nxe4?

Now Black typically continues 8...0–0 and then after 9.Ba2, Black has two primary options:

9...Nc6 10.Be3 Bd7 11.Kh1 Qc7 12.f4 Na5 13.Qe2 Rac8 14.Rae1 Nc4 15.Bc1 b5 16.e5 Ne8 17.exd6 Bxd6 with more or less equal chances, Amonatov-Shomoev, Belgorod 2010.

9...b5 10.Qf3 Bb7 11.Qg3 Nc6 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Bh6 Ne8 14.Rad1 b4 15.axb4 Rb8 16.Bc4 Rxb4 17.b3 Bh4 18.Qg4 was Hamdouchi-Vachier Lagrave, Pau 2012, and now 18...Rxc4 19.bxc4 f5 20.exf5 exf5 would have left Black with a comfortable game.

9.Nxe4 d5 10.Qg4! g6 11.Rd1! Qc7 12.Bg5?!

Not the most accurate. White has a few better alternatives:

12.Bf4 e5 13.Bxe5 Bxg4 14.Bxc7 dxc4 15.f3 with a clear advantage for White.

12.Qf3! is best 12...dxe4 13.Qc3 0–0?

How should White continue?

(13...Rg8 14.Bb5+ Nc6 15.Bxc6+ bxc6 16.Bf4 is terrible for Black but relatively best) 14.Nf5!! (White also wins with 14.Nxe6 Bxe6 (or 14...fxe6 15.Bxe6+ Bxe6 16.Qxc7 Nc6 17.Qxb7) 15.Bh6 and Black loses the queen) 14...gxf5 15.Bh6 (The point) 15...f6 16.Bxe6+ Bxe6 17.Qxc7 Nc6 18.Bxf8 Bxf8 19.Qxb7 and White is winning.

12...dxe4 13.Bxe7 f5

What is White's best move?

14.Bd8! Black resigned. This is probably mostly due to the shock value of

White's move because after 14.Bd8! Qxc4 15.Qg3 0–0 16.Be7 Re8 17.Bd6 e5 18.Bxe5 Nd7 White is clearly better but Black didn't need to resign.
1–0

Game # 37
K.Svistunov (2490) – A.Kharitonov (2530) B86
Pinsk 1993

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 Be7 7.g4 0–0

Black has also tried 7...h6 8.Be3 a6 9.Bb3 b5 10.f3 b4 11.Nce2 a5 12.Qd2 a4 13.Bc4 Qc7 14.Bb5+ Bd7 15.c4 bxc3 16.Nxc3 and White has the marginally better chances, Khusnutdinov-Aronian, Doha 2016.

8.g5 Nxe4

Or 8...Nfd7 9.Rg1 (9.Bxe6 Bxg5 is okay for Black) 9...d5 10.exd5 Nb6 11.Bb3 exd5 12.Be3 Nc6 13.Qf3 Bb4 14.Nde2 Ne5 15.Qg3 Nec4 16.0–0–0 Be6 17.Bd4 with somewhat better chances for White, Geske-Atlas, Austria 2011.

9.Nxe4 d5 10.Nf6+ Bxf6

Or 10...gxf6 11.gxf6 Bxf6 12.Bd3 Qc7

How should White continue?

(Black should have played 12...Re8 13.Rg1+ Kf8 14.Bb5 Nd7 although White is clearly better after 15.Qf3!, e.g., 15...Bxd4 16.Bxd7 Qf6 (16...Qxd7 17.Qa3+! wins on the spot) 17.Qxf6 Bxf6 18.Bh6+ Ke7 19.Bxe8 Kxe8 20.Rg8+ Kd7 21.Bg7) 13.Bxh7+! Kh8 (13...Kxh7 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.Rg1+ Bg7 16.Rxg7+! Kxg7 17.Bh6+ Kh7 18.Bg5+ Kg7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.Bf6 with mate coming shortly) 14.Be3 Qe5 15.Qg4 Kxh7 16.Rg1 Bg7 17.Nf3! Qxb2 18.Bd4! and Black resigned, 1–0, Belikov-Karpeshov, Soviet Union 1988.

11.gxf6 dxc4 12.fxg7 Re8

Now if White played 13.Qg4, how should Black continue?

13.Qg4??

White had more success with 13.Be3 Qa5+ (13...e5!? 14.Nb5 Nc6 15.Qxd8 Rxd8 16.Bg5 Rd7 is comfortable for Black) 14.c3 Nc6 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Rg1 e5 17.Qd6 Qd5 18.Qxd5 cxd5 19.0–0–0 Be6 with more or less even chances in the endgame, Krivec-Shadrina, Sibenik 2007.

13...e5 14.Nf5 Qf6 White resigned.
0–1

Game # 38
R.Rowley (2400) – R.D'Arruda (2350) B87
Webb 1989

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 a6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0–0 b4 9.Na4 Nxe4 10.Re1 d5 11.Bf4 Bb7

How should White best continue?

The alternatives are:

11...Bd6 12.Bxd6? (White had the simple 12.Nxe6 Bxe6 13.Rxe4 dxe4 14.Bxd6 leaving him with the clearly better chances) 12...Qxd6 13.Nf5 (13.f3 Nf6 14.Nf5 Qd8 15.Nxg7+ Kf8 16.Qd2 h6 17.Nh5 Nxh5 18.Qxb4+ Kg8 19.Nb6 Ra7 20.Nxd5 Rb7 21.Qg4+ was played in Babujian-Duzhakov, St Petersburg 2009, and now 21...Ng7 22.Ne3 Qg5 would have been fine for Black) 13...exf5 14.Bxd5 Ra7 15.f3 0–0 16.fxe4 Be6 17.Bxe6 Qxe6 18.exf5 Qxf5 and the chances are about even, Garcia Rojas-Lopez Ruiz, ICCF email 2005.

11...Bd7 12.c4 bxc3 13.Nxc3 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Be7 15.Bxd5 exd5 16.Bd6 Be6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Rxe6 and White is winning, Lifshitz-Zivic, IECC email 2002.

12.Nxe6!?

If you found the text move, you should have kept looking. White's best is 12.Qh5 Qe7 (or 12...g6 13.Qe5 Qd6 14.Rxe4! dxe4 15.Qxd6 Bxd6 16.Bxd6) 13.Nb6 Nd7 14.Ba4 Rd8 15.Rxe4! dxe4 16.Bg5! Qd6 17.Bxd8 Kxd8 18.Nxd7 and White is winning.

12...fxe6 13.Qh5+

White has also played the inferior 13.Rxe4 dxe4 14.Qh5+ g6 15.Qe5 Qd6 16.Qxd6 Bxd6 17.Bxd6 as seen in Almedina Ortiz-Abdyjapar, Istanbul 2012, and now 17...Nd7 18.Bxb4 Kf7 19.Rd1 Bc6 is fully playable for Black although White still has the initiative in the ending.

13...Kd7??

This loses promptly. Black should have played 13...g6! when after 14.Qe5 Qd6 15.f3 Nd7 16.Qxh8 Qxf4 17.fxe4 0–0–0 18.Qxh7 Bd6 White is clearly better but Black has decent swindle chances thanks to his actively placed pieces.

14.Rxe4! Be7 and Black resigned at the same time. A possible continuation was 14...Be7 15.Rxe6 g6 16.Qg4 Ke8 17.Rae1 Nc6 18.Nc5 Bc8 19.Ba4 and Black can barely move (in fact, my computer is announcing mate in 11!).
1–0

Game # 39
B.Tomic (2425) – P.Drenchev (2483) B87
Paracin 2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0–0 Be7 9.Qf3 Qb6 10.Be3 Qb7 11.Qg3 Bd7?

What is White's best move?

Black's main lines are 11...b4, 11...0–0, and 11...Nbd7.

12.Nf5!!

This is the official refutation of Black's 11th move which is a well-known mistake. However, in some 30+ games in my database, White played something else.

12...b4

If Black accepts the sacrifice there is also hell to pay:
12...exf5 13.Qxg7 Rf8 14.Bg5, and now:

14...Ng8 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Nd5 Ng6 (or 16...Ng8 17.exf5 Nc6 18.Rfe1+ Ne5 19.Nf6+ Nxf6 20.Qxf6 Bc6 21.Rad1 Rg8 22.Rxe5+ dxe5 23.Bxf7+ and Black resigned, 1–0, Gdanski-Mozny, Odorheiu Secuiesc 1995) 17.exf5 (17.Nf6+ Kd8 18.Nxh7 Rh8 19.Ng5 Be8 20.exf5 Rh5 21.Nxf7+ Bxf7 22.fxg6 and Black had enough, 1–0, Kuczynski-Cvitan, Warsaw 1990) 17...Bxf5 18.Rfe1+ Kd7 19.Ne7 Nxe7 20.Qxf8 Nbc6 21.Qxf7 Rg8 22.Bd5 Rc8 23.Rxe7+ and game over, 1–0, Rytshagov-Van den Doel, Antwerp 1996.

14...Nc6 15.Bxf6 0–0–0 16.Bd5 (16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.Nd5 Ng6 18.a4 fxe4 19.Qd4 Kb8 was Delchev-Fercec, Bosnjaci 2013, and now 20.Nb4 Bc6 21.axb5 Bxb5 22.c4 would have been game over for Black) 16...Qc7 17.Bxc6 Bxc6 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.exd5 Kb8 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Rfe1 with a winning position for White, Karthikeyan-Areshchenko, Abu Dhabi 2014.

13.Nxe7 Kxe7 14.e5 bxc3

Or 14...dxe5 15.Bc5+ Ke8

How should White continue his attack?

16.Nd5! and Black resigned, 1–0, Moraru-Istrate, Predeal 1997. If 16...exd5 then (or 16...Nxd5 17.Qxg7 Bc6 18.Qxh8+) 17.Qxg7 Be6 18.Ba4+ Nc6 19.Qxh8+ Kd7 20.Qxf6 .

15.Qxg7 Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 40
S.Bykhanov – V.Kuporosov B87
Russian Ch semifinal (Tambov) 1982

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.f4 Be7 9.e5 dxe5 10.fxe5 Nfd7 11.Qg4

White's alternatives are:

11.Bxe6!? Nxe5 (11...0–0 12.Bd5 Ra7 13.Nf3 Nc5 14.Bb3 Rd7 15.Qe2 b4 (15...Nxb3 16.axb3 Qb6 is comfortable for Black) 16.Na4 Nxb3 17.axb3 a5, Varavin-Zubarev, Alushta 2002, and now 18.Be3 Ba6 19.Qf2 Nc6 20.Nb6 Rb7 21.Nc4 would give White the marginally better chances) 12.Bxc8 Qxc8 13.Nd5 Bh4+ 14.g3 Bd8 15.Qe2 f6 16.Bf4 0–0 17.0–0–0 Re8 18.Rhe1 and White has the better chances, Speck-Cheparinov, Seville 2004.

11.Qf3 Qc7 12.Bf4 Bb7 13.Qh5 g6 14.Qh6 Bf8 15.Qh3 Nc5 16.0–0–0 b4 17.Na4 Nxb3+ 18.axb3,

and now instead of 18...Bg7?? 19.Nxe6! fxe6 20.Qxe6+ Qe7 21.Qxe7+ Kxe7 22.Nc5 Bc8 23.Bg5+ and Black resigned, 1–0, Vonthron-Del Rio de Angelis, Salou 2005, Black should have played 18...Nc6! 19.Kb1 Rc8 with a comfortable position.

11...Qc7

Or 11...Bh4+ 12.Ke2 Nxe5 13.Qe4 b4 14.Na4 a5 15.Qxe5 Ba6+ 16.Kf3 Bb7+ 17.Ke2 Ba6+ 18.Kf3 Bb7+ when a draw by repetition is the best either side should get out of this position, Vieira-Violla, Rio de Janeiro 2014.

12.Bf4 0–0

What is White's best move?

13.Bxe6 h5?

White is also much better after 13...Nxe5 14.Qg3 Bd6 15.Nf5 fxe6 16.Nxd6 Rxf4 17.0–0–0 Ng6 18.h4 Rf8 19.h5 Ne7 20.Rhf1 Nf5 21.Nxf5 and Black resigned, 1–0, Lychik-Krylov, RCCA corr 2002.

14.Qg3 h4

How should White continue his attack?

15.Nf5! Black resigned. After 15...hxg3, White concludes the game with 16.Nxe7+ Kh7 17.hxg3 Bh4 18.Rxh4#.
1–0

Game # 41
A.Blees (2420) – G.Welling (2385) B88
Dutch Team Ch (Netherlands) 1994

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0–0 Be7 8.Bb3 Nc6 9.Be3 h5

The text move has, as far as I can see, only been played in our main game. The main lines are 9...0–0; and 9...Qc7, both with sharp and interesting play to follow.

10.h3 h4 11.f4 Nh5 12.f5

In the game, Black now continued 12...Bg5 to lay claim to the dark squares; can you spot what he had missed?

12...Bg5

Black should have played 12...Nxd4 although White after 13.Bxd4 e5 14.Bf2 Nf4 15.Be3 has a clear advantage.

13.Bxg5 Qxg5 14.Nxc6 Here Black resigned, realizing that after 14...bxc6 15.Qxd6 he is lost.
1–0

CHAPTER THREE

Dragon & Accelerated Dragon Variations

Game # 42
Iv.Popov (2632) – V.Zvjaginsev (2659) B34
FIDE World Blitz (Khanty-Mansiysk) 2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f3 0–0 8.g4

White is aiming for a normal Yugoslav Dragon set-up, but Black obviously doesn't need to oblige.

8...e6!?

The main line is 8...Qb6 9.Rb1 d5 10.g5 dxe4 11.Nf5 Qa5 12.Nxg7 Rd8 13.gxf6 Rxd1+ 14.Rxd1, and now instead of 14...Qe5? as in Sanchez Jerez-Forcen Esteban, Navalmoral 2013, where White would have had a large advantage after 15.Nxe4 h6 16.c4 Bg4 17.Bg2 Bf5 18.Nxf5 gxf5 19.Rd5 Qxb2 20.Rxf5, Black should have played 14...exf3 15.Kf2 exf6 16.Ne8 f5 17.Nf6+ Kg7 18.Ne8+ Kh8 with chances to both sides.

9.Qd2 d5 10.exd5

Or 10.g5 Nh5 11.exd5 (11.0–0–0 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qxg5+ 14.Kb1 Qf6 15.exd5 Qxd4 16.Rxd4 exd5 and draw agreed, ½–½, in Olbrich-Marszalek, Moscow 1991) 11...exd5 12.Nce2 f6 13.0–0–0 fxg5 14.Bxg5 Qb6 15.c3 Be5 16.f4 Nxd4 17.fxe5 Nf3 18.Qe3 Qxe3+ 19.Bxe3 Bf5 and Black has the initiative, Szilagyi-Krivolapov, Eger 2004.

10...Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5

Or 11...Bxd4 12.Nc3 e5 13.0–0–0 Be6 with better chances for Black.

12.c4

How should Black best continue?

12...Nxd4! 13.0–0–0

13.Bxd4 Qxd4 14.Qxd4 Bxd4 and Black is just a piece up, Rotenberg-Goethling, Germany 1994.

13...Qxf3 White resigned.
0–1

Game # 43
G.Sigurjonsson (2435) – L.Karlsson (2500) B35
Gausdal 1982

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0–0 8.Bb3 d6 9.h3 Bd7 10.0–0 Qa5 11.Re1 Rfe8 12.Qe2!?

Can Black win a pawn with 12...Nxe4?

12...Nxe4??

The blunder on this move has been played no less than 11 times in my database.
The alternatives are:

12...Rac8 13.Rad1 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bc6 15.Nd5 Nd7 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Qe3 Nc5 18.Qd4+ e5 19.Qe3 Nxb3 20.axb3 Bxd5 21.Rxd5 was Gashimov-Carlsen, Moscow 2009, and now 21...Rc5 would have kept the game approximately level.

12...Qh5 13.Qd2 (13.Nf3!? is an annoying alternative) 13...Na5 14.Nde2 h6 15.Nf4 Nxb3 16.axb3 Qe5 17.Bxa7 Bc6 18.Nfd5 Bxd5 19.exd5 with a large advantage for White, Spraggett-Moreno Ruiz, San Sebastian 2014.

13.Nxc6 Nxc3

In Neukirch-Baumbach, East German Ch (Schwerin) 1968, Black played 13…Bxc6, but after 14.Nxe4, he resigned, because 14…Bxe4 15.Bd2 loses a piece for Black as seen in Espig-Radulov, Raach zonal 1969.

14.Nxa5

In our main game, Black resigned. In another game, Black decided to fight on, a piece for two pawns down: 14.Nxa5 Nxe2+ 15.Rxe2 Bxb2 16.Rb1 Bc3 17.Nxb7 Bc6 18.Bc4 Rec8 19.Ba6 Rab8 20.Bxa7 Ra8 21.Nxd6 Rd8 22.Nc8

Rdxc8 23.Bxc8 Rxa7 24.Rb3 and White is winning, Klovans-Van der Weide, Groningen 1996.
1–0

Game # 44
E.Kahn (2380) – V.Malakhov (2515) B35
Budapest 1996

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0–0 8.f3 Qb6 9.Ncb5

How should Black meet this move?

A tricky alternative is 9.a3!? after which 9...Qxb2?? 10.Na4 leaves Black's queen trapped.

One of the key ideas for Black is demonstrated after 9.Qd2? when 9...Nxe4! wins material for Black: 10.Nxc6 Nxd2 11.Nxe7+ Kh8 12.Bxb6 Nxc4 13.Bf2 Nxb2 14.Ncd5 b6 15.0–0 Bb7 and Black is clearly better, Kim-Savchenko, St Petersburg 2005.

The main line is 9.Bb3, and now:

9...Ng4 10.fxg4 Bxd4 11.Bxd4 Qxd4 12.Qxd4 Nxd4 13.Nd5 Nc6 14.0–0–0 (or 14.g5 d6 15.Ba4 Kg7 16.0–0–0 Bg4 17.Rd3 Rac8 18.Rb3 Na5 and Black has equalized, Sulskis-Andrianov, Los Angeles 2003) 14...b5 15.Rhf1 Kg7

16.g5 d6 17.Rd2 Rb8 with equal chances, Mikhailov-Chuprov, Taganrog 2011.

9...Nxe4 10.Nd5 Qa5+ 11.c3 Bxd4 12.Bxd4 Nc5 13.Bc4 Ne6 14.Be3 d6 15.Qd2 Ng7 16.h4 h5 17.0–0–0 Be6 and Black has a good game, Pultinevicius-L.Van Foreest, Mamaia 2017.

9...a6!

Simple and effective.

10.Nf5

Or 10.Nc3 Qxb2 11.Nde2 Ng4 and White resigned, 0–1, El Mchaouri Mas-Benmesbah, Saint Affrique 2014.

10...Qd8 11.Nbd4 Also 11.Nh6+ Bxh6 12.Bxh6 axb5 13.Bxf8 bxc4 14.Bh6 Qb6 15.Qc1 d5 is hopeless for White, Kindinova-Vorontsov, Kostroma 2010.

11...gxf5 12.Nxf5

12.exf5 d5 13.Bd3 e5, 0–1, Andrade Truyol-Hernandez Sanchez, Medellin 2015, is another disaster for White.

12...d5 and White resigned.
0–1

Game # 45
M.Palac (2395) – P.Ostojic (2390) B35
Belgrade 1988

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0–0 8.Bb3 Na5

How should White best continue?

Black has an enormous selection of moves at this point, but the text move is one of the weaker ones. In 1958 when Fischer punished Reshevsky for not knowing the "refutation", and therefore Black players should be well aware of White's idea. Nevertheless, in my database, I found more than 100 games with 8...Na5 and far from all white players found White's best moves subsequently.
The main alternatives for Black are 8...d6 and 8...a5 each of which has been played several thousand times.

9.e5!

For some reason, Nakamura castled kingside at this point: 9.0–0 Nxb3 (9...d6 10.h3 Bd7 11.Qd2 Rc8 12.Bh6 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 is completely equal, Frolyanov-Savchenko, St Petersburg 2009) 10.axb3 d6 (10...d5!? is also perfectly acceptable) 11.Bg5 a6 12.f4 Ng4?! (12...Qb6! 13.Kh1 Re8 is fine for Black) 13.Nd5 f6 14.Bh4 e6 15.Qxg4 exd5 16.Qf3 dxe4 17.Qxe4 and White has the upper hand, Nakamura-Wirig, playchess.com INT 2005.

9...Ne8

Here Black must play 9...Nxb3, e.g., 10.exf6 Nxa1 11.fxg7 Re8 (11...Nxc2+ 12.Qxc2 Re8 13.f4 e5 14.fxe5 Rxe5 15.Qf2 and White is winning, Bastrikov-Shamkovich, Sochi 1958) 12.0–0 e5 13.Ndb5 (13.Nd5 exd4 14.Bxd4 Re6 15.Qxa1 b6 16.Re1 Bb7 17.Bf6 Qc8 18.Rxe6 Bxd5 and Black has equalized,

Fontaine-Maze, Val d'Isere 2004) 13...d5 14.Nxd5 Nxc2 15.Qxc2 Qxd5 16.Nc7 Bf5 and now rather than 17.Qxf5?? (White should have played 17.Nxd5 Bxc2 18.Bh6 Re6 19.Nc7 Rae8 20.Rc1 Bf5 21.Nxe8 Rxe8 with an equal endgame) 17...gxf5?? (17...Qc6! wins for Black) 18.Nxd5 Red8 19.Ne7+ Kxg7 20.Nxf5+ Kf6 21.g4 with a winning material advantage, Golubev-Wirig, playchess.com INT 2005.

10.Bxf7+ Kxf7 11.Ne6

This was the end station for the game Bastrikov-Shamkovich, Sochi 1958; it was in this game that Fischer saw the refutation he used against Reshevsky.

11...Kxe6

Or 11...dxe6 12.Qxd8 Nc6 13.Qd2 Bxe5 14.0–0 Nd6 15.Bf4 Nc4 16.Qe2 Bxf4 17.Qxc4 and White is winning, Fischer-Reshevsky, New York 1958.

12.Qd5+ Kf5 13.g4+ Kxg4 14.Rg1+ Kh5 15.Qg2 Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 46
A.Grosar (2220) – T.Marinsek (2470) B35
Slovenian Ch 1991

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2 0–0 8.f4 d6 9.0–0 Bd7 10.Nb3 Qc7

This is an unusual move in this position, especially after this move order. We can reach the same position after 7.Bc4 Qa5 8.0–0 0–0 9.Nb3 Qc7 10.Be2 d6 11.f4 Bd7.

11.Bf3 Na5

What is White's best move?

Black has a solid, even-headed alternative in 11...Rac8!? 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Na5 14.Nxa5 Qxa5 15.c3 a6 16.a3 Ba4 and the chances are about even, Ghassan-Kassis, Beirut 1998.

12.e5! dxe5 13.fxe5 Nc4

Or 13...Qxe5 14.Bd4 Qc7 and now instead of 15.Nxa5? (White should have played 15.Bxf6! exf6 16.Nxa5 wins material for White) 15...e5 16.Bxe5 Qxe5 17.Nxb7 when a draw was agreed upon, ½–½, in Supi-Blit, Sao Jose do Rio Preto 2012, even though Black is clearly better after 17...Rab8 18.Kh1 Qc7 19.Nd6 Rxb2.

14.exf6 Nxe3 15.Nd5! The refutation. Black resigned, because after 15...Nxd5, White plays 16.fxg7 before recapturing on g7, leaving White a piece up.
1–0

Game # 47
J.Klinger (2475) – E.Brestian (2465) B38
Austrian Ch 1989

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.e4 0–0 7.Be2 Nc6 8.Be3 Nxd4 9.Bxd4 d6 10.Qd2 Qa5 11.0–0

How should Black continue?

The main line runs 11.f3 Be6 12.Rc1 Rfc8 13.b3 a6 14.Be3, and now: 14...Nd7 15.Nd5 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Bxd5 17.exd5 a5 18.Rc2 Nc5 19.Rb1 Re8 20.a3 e6 and draw agreed, ½–½, in Gorovets-Teterev, Minsk 2013; despite White's bishop pair, Black has fully equalized.

14...b5 15.Nd5 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Nxd5 17.cxd5 Bd7 18.Rxc8+ Rxc8 19.Rc1 Rxc1 20.Kxc1 Kf8 when the endgame should be drawn, but Black has to defend accurately to manage just that and that did indeed happen in the recent game Li Chao-N.Nguyen, Ashkhabad 2017.

11...Nxe4! Here White resigned which, of course, is a little over-dramatic since White only loses a pawn. However, as we have seen in several of the other volumes in this series when a player has overlooked something simple, but nasty, the resolve to resign often overpowers common sense. In another game, the play continued a lot longer: 11...Nxe4! 12.Qe3 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Qc7 15.h4 Be6 16.Rfe1 Qc5 17.Qf4 Qf5 when Black has both the pawn and the compensation, Julia-Landriel, Dos Hermanas 2003.
0–1

Game # 48
F.De Gleria (2441) – D.Hausrath (2446) B38
Essen 2000

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.d4 Qa5+ 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Qd2

How should Black continue?

With this move we transpose into the Accelerated Dragon but where White has already gone wrong.

The alternative, however, is 7.d5 Nxe4 8.dxc6 Nxc3 9.Qd2 b6 10.Bd3 dxc6 11.0–0 Na4 12.b3 Qxd2 13.Bxd2 Bg4 and Black is already winning, Meijers-Hausrath, Gelsenkirchen 2001 and Contin-Gheorghiu, 1998!

7.Qd3 d6 8.h3 Nxe4 9.Qxe4 Bf5 10.Qh4 Bf6 11.Qf4 cxd4 12.Bxd4 e5 13.Qd2 exd4 14.Nd5 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Bd8 and Black has the better chances, R.Popov-Vlassov, Tomsk 2001.

7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nxe4 9.Nxc6 Qxc3 10.bxc3

Or 10.Qxc3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 dxc6 12.Bd3 Nd6 13.c5 Nf5 14.Bxf5 Bxf5 15.0–0–0 Rd8 and Black is simply a pawn up, Maciejewski-Krasenkow, Lubniewice 1993.

10...Nxd2

Here White resigned in Tratar-Shushpanov, 1998.

11.Kxd2 dxc6 12.Rb1 Bf5 and here White resigned, realizing that the planned 13.Rxb7 will be met with 13...0–0–0+, winning the rook.
0–1

Game # 49
M.Karthikeyan (2510) – M.Anurag (2393) B38
Indian Ch challengers (Nagpur) 2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.c4 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0–0 8.Be2 d6 9.0–0

Now Black played 9...Ng4 intending 10.Bxg4 Bxg4 11.Qxg4 Nxd4 with a good game for Black. What did he miss?

9...Ng4??

This is an incredibly common mistake with more than 130 games in my database. The main line is 9...Bd7 which by contrast has been played nearly ten thousand times!

10.Bxg4 Bxg4

10...Bxd4 11.Bxc8 Bxe3 (or 11...Bxc3 12.Bxb7 Bxb2 13.Bxc6 Rc8 14.Rb1, 1–0, Tratar-Voscilla, Pula 2017) 12.Bxb7, 1–0, was Darban-Javakhadze, Malatya 2014 - a loss by a 2400+ rated player in this line.

11.Nxc6 Bxd1 12.Nxd8 Bc2

Or 12...Bg4 13.Nxb7 Rfb8 14.Na5 Rxb2 15.Rfc1 Bd7 and Black resigned at

the same time, 1–0, A.Grigoryan-Panocki, Warsaw 2008.

13.Nxb7 Rfb8 14.Rac1 and Black resigned.

1–0

Game # 50
E.Karahaliou (2058) – N.Kalesis (2408) B72
Iraklion 2002

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be2 Bg7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.h4

This is the variation utilized repeatedly by Smyslov in his 1958 match against Botvinnik for the World Championship.

After 8.f4 Qb6 9.e5 White has the better chances.

8...Qb6?

Why is this move a bad idea?

The alternatives are:

8...0–0 9.h5 d5 10.hxg6 hxg6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.e5 Ne4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Qxd8 Rxd8 15.Bf4 Be6 with about even chances, Smyslov-Bacrot, Albert 1996.

8...h5 9.f3 0–0 10.Qd2 d5 (or 10...Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Be6 12.0–0–0 Qa5 13.Kb1 Rfc8 14.a3 Rc6 15.Nd5 Qxd2 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Rxd2 Kg7 with equal chances in the endgame, B.Gonzalez-Milos, Americana 2010) 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.e5 Ne8 13.g4 Bxe5 14.gxh5 Bf5 15.hxg6 fxg6 16.0–0–0 Ng7 with a sharp position where Black's chances by no means are worse, Ermenkov-Ki.Georgiev, Sofia 1991.

9.Nxc6!

White, of course, shouldn't play 9.Nf5? Qxb2 10.Nxg7+ Kf8 11.Na4 Qe5 12.Bh6 Kg8 when Black is okay.

9...Qxc6?

Or 9...Qxb2 10.Nb5 bxc6 11.Rb1 and White is winning.

10.Bb5

Winning the queen. Nothing further is really needed.

10...Qxb5 11.Nxb5 Kd7 12.e5 Ne8 13.exd6 Nxd6
1–0

Game # 51
P.Popovic (2405) – L.Kristensen B72
European Ch U20 (Groningen) 1976

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.Be3 0–0 8.h3 Nxe4! 9.Nxe4

Or 9.Bxf7+ Rxf7 10.Nxe4 Nc6 11.0–0 h6 12.c4 Qa5 13.Qd3 Bf5 14.f3? (14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.g4 Be6 16.Rae1 Qxa2 17.b3 Bd7) 14...d5 15.cxd5 Qxd5 16.Qb3 Qxb3 17.Nxb3 Bxb2 with a good game for Black, Kosashvili-Afek, Israel 1986.

9...d5 10.Bd3

Here White intended to meet 10...dxe4 with 11.Bxe4. What did he miss?

White should have played 10.Nb5, and now:

10...a6 11.Qxd5 Qxd5 12.Bxd5 axb5 13.0–0–0 Nc6 14.Kb1 Bf5 15.g4 Bxe4 16.Bxe4 and White has a fairly clear advantage in the endgame, Bartholomew-D.Gurevich, Philadelphia 2004.

10...dxc4 11.Qxd8 Rxd8 12.Nc7 Bf5 13.f3 Nc6 14.Nxa8 and now instead of 14...Rxa8 15.0–0–0 Kf8 16.g4 Bxe4 17.fxe4 with chances to both sides, Klundt-Werner, Finsterbergen 2009, Black should play 14...Nb4 15.Nc7 Nxc2+ 16.Ke2 Nxa1 17.Rxa1 Bxb2 18.Rd1 Rc8 19.Nd5 Kf8 20.Kd2 Bxe4 21.fxe4 Be5 22.Rb1 b6 23.Bh6+ Ke8 with winning chances.

10...dxe4 11.Bxe4? f5! Black wins a piece. White resigned.
0–1

Game # 52
J.Pribyl (2422) – K.Cedikova (2082) B73
Plzen 1999

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be2 Bg7 7.Be3 0–0 8.0–0 Nc6 9.f4 Qb6

Has White fallen into an opening trap?

10.Nf5??

If White plays 10.Qd3, Black has the following options:

The official "refutation" is 10...Ng4 11.Bxg4 Bxd4 12.Bxd4 Qxd4+ 13.Qxd4 Nxd4 14.Bd1 Rd8 15.Nd5 e6 16.Nc7 Rb8 with equal chances, M.Petrov-P.H,Nielsen, Helsingor 2011.

10...Qxb2 11.Rab1 Qa3 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nd5 Qxd3 14.Nxe7+ Kh8 15.cxd3 Ba6 16.Rfe1 c5 17.Nc6 Rfe8 18.Bf2 Nd7 19.d4 Bxe2 20.Rxe2 cxd4 21.Bxd4 Bxd4+ with equality, Radulski-Chatalbashev, Sunny Beach 2006.

10...Qc7 11.h3 a6 12.Bf3 Bd7 13.Nb3 b5 14.Rf2 Rac8 15.Qd2 Na5 16.Nxa5 Qxa5 17.Nd5 Qxd2 18.Nxe7+ Kh8 19.Rxd2 Rce8 20.e5 Rxe7 21.exf6 Bxf6 22.Bd4 Bxd4+ 23.Rxd4 and White has the upper hand in the endgame, Kadric-Li Ruifeng, Dallas 2016.

10...Qxb2 and White is losing and therefore resigned.
0–1

Game # 53
R.Loncar (2417) – I.Armanda (2342) B75
Omis 2006

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.f3 Bg7 7.Be3 0–0 8.Bc4 Nc6 9.0–0 Qb6 10.Na4 Qa5

Now White played 11.c3 - how should Black best continue in that case?

Black has also played 10...Qc7 11.Bb3 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Be6 13.Kh1 b5 14.Nc3 b4 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 Ne8 17.Re1 a5 18.a4 which was seen in Paoli-Wade, Mont Pelerin sur Vevey 1955, and then 18...Bxd4 19.Qxd4 Nf6 20.Re2 Qa7 21.Qd3 Rfc8 would have left the chances about even.

11.c3??

White should have played 11.Bb3 Bd7 12.Nc3 Rfc8 13.Qd2 a6 14.Rad1 b5 15.Nd5 Qxd2 16.Rxd2 Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Rab8 18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.Bxc6 Rxc6 with a comfortable endgame for Black, although winning it will be far from easy, Bartels-Habibi, Wiesbaden 1998.

11...Nxd4 12.b4

Of course, 12.cxd4 loses a piece after 12...b5.

12...Qc7 13.Qxd4

Necessary, but it allows Black's decisive next move...

13...Ng4! White resigned as he loses a piece.
0–1

Game # 54
Z.Szabo (2451) – J.Bolehradski (2210) B77
Balatonlelle 2003

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0–0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Nd7 10.0–0–0 Nb6 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Bh6

This mistake has been played no less than 57 times in my database. What has White overlooked?

The main lines are 12.Qd3 and 12.Qe2.

12...Nac4

Or 12...Nbc4 13.Qg5 e5 14.Nde2 (14.Nd5 Qxg5+ 15.Bxg5 exd4 16.Nf6+ Kh8 17.Rxd4 Be6 18.Bxc4 Nxc4 and Black is winning, Szalanczy-A.Schneider, Hungary 1989) 14...Bf6 15.Qg3 Bh4 is similar to our main game, Chulivska-Azarov, Alushta 2010.

13.Qg5 e5! 14.Nde2

There are no good moves for White: 14.Qxd8 Bxh6+ loses a piece and; 14.Ndb5 a6 15.Na3 Bf6 16.Qxf6 Qxf6 17.Nxc4 Nxc4 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.Bxc4 Be6 20.Bxf8 Kxf8 should win for Black although there obviously is a lot of work left to be done. This is probably the best outcome for White after

13...e5!.

14...Bf6 White resigned as he loses the queen.
0–1

Game # 55
C.Zuidema – P.Lee B77
Zuerich 1964

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0–0 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.h4 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Bh6 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Bxh6

Can White win a pawn with Bxf7+?

The alternative is 13...Rxc4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.h5 e5 (15...Qa5 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.0–0–0 Rfc8 18.Nb3 Qa6 19.g4 Be6 20.Qh6+ Kf7 21.g5 and White is winning, Malisauskas-A.Nguyen, Kolkata 1997) 16.Nde2 Be6 17.0–0–0 Rc6 18.f4 exf4 19.Nxf4 Bg4 20.Rdf1 gxh5? 21.Ncd5 Kg8 22.Nxh5 Nxh5 23.Nf6+ Kh8 24.Qh6 and Black resigned, 1–0, Reinhart-Partos, Baden 2010.

14.Bxf7+??

White should play 14.Qxh6 Rxc4 15.0–0–0 Rxc3 16.bxc3 Qa5 17.Qe3 Qxa2 18.Kd2 Qc4 with chances to both sides, Balazs-Harvan, Slovakia 2016.

14...Kg7! Ouch! White resigned as he loses a piece.

0–1

CHAPTER FOUR

Classical Variation
including the Richter-Rauzer & Sozin Attack

Game # 56
R.Mantovani (2369) – H.Groetz (2353) B56
Mitropa Cup (Leipzig) 2002

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.f4 Qb6 7.Nb3 g6 8.Be2 Bg7 9.g4?

This hyper-aggressive line doesn't do anything for White. Some better and more common options are:

9.a4 a5 10.g4 h5 11.gxh5 Nxh5 12.Nd5 Qd8 13.Be3 e6 14.Bb6 Qh4+ 15.Bf2 Qd8 16.Nb6?! (Here White should have continued the repetition of moves with 16.Bb6) 16...Ng3 17.Bxg3 Qxb6 18.c3 e5 19.Bf2 Qc7 with a comfortable game for Black, Timofeev-Dreev, Moscow 2008.

9.Bf3 0–0 (9...a5 10.a4 Nb4 11.Nb5 Be6 12.N3d4 Bc4 13.Na3 Ba6 14.Be3 0–0 15.Qd2 Qc7 16.Ndb5 Qc8 17.c3 Nc6 18.0–0 with a wonderful positional clamp on Black's position, Hulak-Inkiov, Banja Luka 1983) 10.Qe2 Be6 11.Be3 Bc4 12.Bxb6 Bxe2 13.Kxe2 axb6 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Na5 16.Nxa5 bxa5 17.c3 b5 with even chances in the ending, V.Gurevich-Rogozenco, Berlin 1993.

9...h5!

Black immediately targets White's structural weakening.

10.Nd5?

This only makes matters worse. However, the alternative is not a confidence builder either: 10.gxh5 Nxh5 and now:

11.Bf3 Be6 12.Qd3 Nb4 13.Qe2 Rc8 14.Kd1 Bc4 15.Qe1 Qa6 16.Rb1 (or 16.Nd2 Nxc2! 17.Kxc2 Bd3+ 18.Kd1 Rxc3) 16...Nxa2 17.Nxa2 Bxb3 and White could have resigned, Blanco Acevedo-De la Riva Aguado, Bilbao 2015.

11.Nd5 Qd8 12.0–0 Nf6 13.Bf3 Nxd5 14.exd5 Qb6+ 15.Kh1 Nd4 16.Nxd4 Qxd4 with a clear advantage for Black, Orlov-Fedorowicz, ICC INT 2011.

10...Nxd5 11.exd5

How should Black best continue?

11...hxg4!!

11...Nb4 is also much better for Black but the game move is clearly Black's best move.

12.Bxg4?

The key alternative for White is 12.dxc6 but after 12...g3! White is busted:

13.Kd2 Rxh2 14.Rxh2 (14.c3 Rf2 15.cxb7 Bxb7 16.Rg1 Bf3 and White can resign) 14...gxh2 15.Qh1 Qg1 16.Bf3 Qf2+ 17.Kd3 (or 17.Kd1 Bg4!) 17...Bf5+ 18.Kc4 Qxc2+ 19.Kb4 a5+ 20.Ka3 Qc4 21.Bd2 b5 with mate in a few moves (Mueller in CBM);

13.cxb7 Bxb7 14.Rf1 g2!.

13.Qd5 Qf2+ 14.Kd2 (14.Kd1 g2) 14...Bg4 15.Qb5 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 g2! and Black is winning.

12...Rxh2! 13.Rf1

Or 13.Rxh2 Qg1+ 14.Kd2 Qxh2+ 15.Ke3 Nb4 and Black is winning.

13...Nb4 White resigned.
0–1

Game # 57
Kiu Sen – N.Ginting (2425) B56
Jakarta 1997

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be3 Bg4?!

This is a peculiar decision. The main lines are 6...Ng4, 6...e5, 6...e6, and 6...g6, the latter with a transposition to the Dragon Variation.

7.f3 Bh5 8.Qd2 Nxd4 9.Bxd4 e5?

What is White's strongest continuation?

Or 9...a6 10.h4 h6 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qd5 Bg6 13.h5 Bh7 14.Bc4 e6 15.Qxb7

and White is clearly better.

10.Bb5+! Nd7 11.Bxe5! dxe5 12.0–0–0 Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 58
C.Bush – I.Figler (2384) B56
Arlington 1999

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 dxe5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Bc4

The alternatives are:

9.f4 exf4 10.Bxf4 Nd7 11.0–0–0 f6 12.g4 e5 13.Be3 Kc7 14.Bg2 Ba6 15.Bf3 Be7 16.h4 g6 17.Be4 Nc5 and Black already has the better chances, Heidenfeld-Muir, Pula 1997.

9.Bd2 e6 10.0–0–0 Kc7 11.Na4 a5 12.Be2 Bb4 13.c3 Be7 14.Rhe1 Nd5 15.c4 Nb6 16.Nxb6 Kxb6 and Black has at least equalized, Brusilovskiy-Baklan, Alushta 2008.

9...Ke8

This is a somewhat odd decision. Typically, Black sends his kind to c7 to complete his development, e.g., 9...e6 10.0–0 Kc7 11.Re1 Bd6 12.Bg5 Rb8 13.Rab1 h6 14.Be3 a5 15.a3 Nd5 with chances for Black, Petrovic-Solomunovic, Herceg Novi 2006.

10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Nh5 12.f3 g5 13.Bf2 Bg7 14.0–0–0

14...Kf8??

A horrific blunder. After 14...f5 15.Ne2 Nf6, Black is fine.

15.Rd8#
1–0

Game # 59
T.Nabaty (2456) – E.Miroshnichenko (2632) B56
Kallithea 2008

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bd7 6.f4 e5 7.Nf3 Bc6 8.Bc4 Be7

Now White made the following calculation: 9.fxe5 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 Bxe4

11.exd6 Qxd6 12.Bxf7+ Kxf7 13.Qxd6 Bxd6 14.Ng5+ Kg6 15.Nxe4 with an extra pawn. What did he miss? Can he improve on the line?

9.fxe5

Or 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.0–0 0–0 11.Kh1 a6 12.Bb3 Nc5 13.fxe5 Nfxe4 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Bf4 d5 16.Nd4 Qd7 17.Rad1 Rad8 and Black has a comfortable game, Fedorchuk-Nevednichy, Bol 2013.

9...Nxe4 10.Nxe4 Bxe4 11.exd6 Qxd6 12.Bxf7+

White has also tried 12.Qxd6 Bxd6 13.Ng5 Bg6 14.Be3 0–0 15.0–0–0 Be7 16.h4 h5 17.g4 Nc6 18.gxh5 Bxh5 19.Rd5 Rad8 with chances to both sides, Maryasin-Goumas, Aghios Kirykos 2009.

12...Kxf7 13.Qxd6??

White should have inserted the check on g5 first: 13.Ng5+ Kg6 14.Nxe4 Qxd1+ 15.Kxd1 Rd8+ 16.Bd2 Nc6 17.c3 with an extra pawn for White.

13...Bxd6 14.Ng5+ Kg6 15.Nxe4 Re8! White loses a piece and therefore resigned.
0–1

Game # 60
B.Igudesman (2033) – A.Isajevsky (2440) B57
Kazan 2008

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 g6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Ng4

This move is an attempt at making this line work for Black and I have used it myself to stun surprised opponents who were already expecting an easy victory after 8.e5.

The well-known trap 8...dxe5?? has no less than 48 victims in my database;

after 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 10.Qxd8 Black should resign if not done already.

9.exd6

After 9.e6, Black has no problems: 9...f5 10.h3?! Nf6 11.Bb3 Bg7 12.g4?! Qa5 13.Qf3 0–0 14.Kf1 d5 15.Bd2 Qa6+ 16.Kg1 Ne4 and Black is already winning, Ivanovic-Tosic, Budva 2004.

9...Qxd6 10.Qxd6 exd6 11.Bf4 d5

How should White best continue?

The text move is a terrible blunder. Instead Black has the following options:

11...Be6 12.Ba6 (12.Bb3 0–0–0 (12...d5!? 13.Ba4 Rc8 14.h3 Nf6 15.0–0 Bg7 16.Ne2 Nd7 is very close to equal) 13.h3 Nf6 14.0–0–0 Be7 15.Rhe1 d5 16.Ne2 c5 17.c3 Rhe8 18.Bg5 Ne4 19.Be3 Bh4 20.g3 Bf6 21.Nf4 and White has the somewhat better chances, Pierrot-Felgaer, Buenos Aires 2004) 12...Rb8 13.h3 Rb4 14.Bg3 Nh6 15.0–0–0 Nf5 16.Bh2 Bh6+ 17.f4 Bxf4+ 18.Bxf4 Rxf4 and Black has the better chances in the endgame, A.Sokolov-Makarichev, Moscow 1983; this was the game that inspired me to pick up this variation as Black.

11...Nf6? 12.0–0–0 d5 13.Rhe1+ Be6 14.Ba6 Kd7 15.Be5 Be7 16.Na4 Rhe8 17.c4 Ng4 was Zurakhov-Kortschnoj, Cheliabinsk 1959, and now 18.Bg3 Nf6 19.Nc3 would have been very unpleasant for Black. 11...Be7 12.Rd1 Bf5 13.0–0 Ne5 14.Bb3 0–0 15.Rfe1 is somewhat better for White.

12.Nxd5! Black resigned. After 12...cxd5 13.Bxd5, White should win easily.
1–0

Game # 61
D.Velimirovic (2540) – Z.Vukovic (2415) B57
Belgrade 1988

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 Qb6 7.Ndb5 a6 8.Be3 Qd8 9.Nd4 Ng4 10.0–0 Nce5 11.Bb3 Nxe3 12.fxe3 g6?

What is White's best move?

This natural looking move - controlling the dark squares - is in fact a mistake. Black would do better to play 12...e6 blunting the effect of White's light-squared bishop: 13.Nf3 (or 13.Qh5?! g6 14.Qh3 Bg7 15.Rf2 0–0 16.Raf1 Bd7 17.Nb1 b5 18.Nd2 Rc8 19.Qg3 Qe7 and Black is clearly better, Schlosser-Goldin, Sochi 1989) 13...Qc7 (13...Ng6 14.e5 (14.Qd4!?) 14...d5 15.e4 Bc5+ 16.Kh1 d4 17.Ne2 0–0 18.Nexd4 Bxd4 19.Qxd4 Qxd4 20.Nxd4 Bd7 and Black has equalized, Eid-Adly, Dubai 2011) 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Qg4 g6 16.Rad1 Bg7? (16...Be7! is comfortable for Black) 17.Ba4+! Ke7 18.Rd2 b5 was Kalugin-Miroshnichenko, Sochi 2008, and now 19.Rdf2 f6 20.Bb3 would have left White with the initiative.

13.Nf3! Nxf3+

It would have been relatively best to drop a pawn with 13...e6 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Qxd8+ Kxd8 16.Rxf7 although White is clearly better in this line.

14.Qxf3 Be6?

14...f6 is met by 15.e5 f5 16.Rad1 and Black is in serious trouble.

15.Ba4+! Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 62
A.Ivanov (2554) – P.Charbonneau (2496) B57
Ledyard 2008

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Bd7 7.0–0 g6 8.Nxc6 Bxc6 9.Bg5 Bg7 10.Nd5

Another try for White is 10.Qe2 0–0 11.Rad1 Qa5 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 e5 14.Qf3 Nd7 15.c3 Rac8 16.Qe2 Qc7 17.Bb5 f5 18.f4 Nc5 19.fxe5 Bxe5 20.Be3 a6 21.Bd3 Rce8 22.Qd2 Nxd3 and draw agreed, ½–½, A.Sokolov-Kortschnoj, Reykjavik 1988.

10...e6

Black has a couple of alternatives at this point:

10...Bxd5 11.exd5 0–0 12.Re1 (or 12.Qe2 Rc8 13.Rad1 Qd7 14.Bb3 Rc7 15.Rfe1 b5 16.c3 a5 17.a3 Rb8 18.Rd4 Rbb7 19.h3 and White has pressure, Parligras-Mamedov, Bad Wiessee 2007) 12...Qd7 13.a4 Qf5 14.Bxf6?! Bxf6 15.c3 Rfc8 16.Bb3 Rc5 17.Qe2 Rb8 18.Qd2 a5 with a comfortable position for Black that he eventually converted into a victory, Alonso Bouza-Romero Holmes, San Sebastian 2017.

10...0–0 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Nxf6+ exf6 13.Qd3 Qb6 14.Bb3 Rad8 15.Rfe1 Rfe8 16.Rad1 a5 and Black has equalized, Bartel-Wang Hao, Bilbao 2014.

11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Qxd6

Can Black get away with capturing the b2–pawn?

13...Qxb2

13...Rd8 14.Qa3 Qd4 (14...Qe5!? 15.Bd3) 15.Bd3 Rd6?! (15...Bxe4 16.Rad1 Bc6 17.Be2 Qe4 18.Rxd8+ Kxd8 19.Bf3 Qxc2 20.Bxc6 Qxc6 21.g3 a6 is playable for Black) 16.Rad1 Rd7 17.c3 Qb6?! 18.Bc2 a6 19.c4 Kd8? 20.Qc3 Rf8 21.b4 Rxd1 22.Rxd1+ and White is much better, Conquest-Dobos, Hastings 1995.

14.Rab1

This is where Langner-Damaso, 1987, ended.

14...Qc3

After 14...Qf6 15.Rxb7 Rc8 White should simply get materialistic with 16.Rxa7! (16.Rc7 Rxc7 17.Qxc7 Bxe4 18.Qc5 Qe7 19.Bb5+ Kf8 20.Qe5 f6 21.Qxe4 is also effective) 16...Qd8 17.Qb4 h5 18.Be2 h4 19.Rd1 Qf6 20.Rc7 and Black resigned, 1–0, Kofidis-Stern, ICCF corr 1987.

15.Rxb7 Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 63
D.King (2515) – V.Frias Pablaza (2500) B58
London 1990

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bg5 0–0 9.0–0 Be6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nd5 Rc8 12.c3 Bg5

This is a standard ploy for Black to activate his pieces a bit. The normal continuation is 12...Ne7 13.Nxf6+ gxf6, and now:

14.Qc1 Kg7 15.Qe3 a6 16.Rfd1 Qc7 17.Nd2 Rfd8 18.Nf1 Qc5 19.Qf3 Ng6 20.Ne3 Nf4 21.Bf1 and draw agreed, ½–½, Wolter-Boidman, Germany 2000, although White appears to have a pleasant position, for instance, 21...d5 22.g3 dxe4 23.Qxe4 Ng6 24.Qxb7 and White is simply better.

14.Nh4 Ng6 15.Nf5 d5 16.Nh6+ Kh8 17.exd5 Qxd5 18.Qxd5 Bxd5 19.Rfd1 was Ostojic-Conquest, Dortmund 1987, and now 19...Rcd8 20.g3 Ne7 would have been about equal.

14.Qd2 d5 15.Qe3 dxe4 16.Qxe4 Qc7 17.Rfd1 Ng6 18.Nh4 Qb6 19.Rd2 Rfd8 and Black has equalized, Calhau-Moise, ICCF email 2003.

13.Nxg5 Qxg5 14.Qd3 Ne7

How should White continue?

Black should have played 14...Rfd8 15.g3 Rd7 16.Rad1 Rcd8 17.h4 when has

more space and pressure, but Black is solid.

15.Qg3! Black resigned as he loses a piece.
1–0

Game # 64
M.Perez (2422) – C.Henriquez Villagra (2511) B60
Neuquen 2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Qb6 7.Be3 Qxb2 8.Ndb5 Qb4 9.Bd2

What is best for Black, 9...Nxe4 or 9...Qc5?

9...Nxe4?

The knight capture has been played surprisingly often, also by very strong players even though it loses a piece. Black's only reasonable move is 9...Qc5, and now 10.Nc7+ (Strictly speaking the correct play is 10.Be3 Qb4 11.Bd2 Qc5 12.Be3 with a draw by repetition in Dolmatov-Spraggett, Hastings 1989/90) 10...Kd8 11.Nxa8 Ng4 12.Qb1? (White can repeat moves with 12.Qe2 Nd4 13.Qd1 Nc6, but should avoid getting ambitious with 14.Qf3 Nd4 15.Qd3 as 15...Ne5 wins for Black!) 12...Qxf2+ 13.Kd1 Ne3+ 14.Bxe3 Qxe3 15.Bd3 g6 16.Qc1 Bg4+ 17.Ne2 Bxe2+ 18.Bxe2 Qd4+ 19.Bd3?? (19.Ke1 Bg7 20.Rb1 Qxe4 is very pleasant for Black, but White is still fighting) 19...Bh6 20.Qxh6 and White resigned at the same time, 0–1, Jaracz-

Miroshnichenko, Cappelle la Grande 2004, on account of 20...Qxa1+ 21.Qc1 Qxc1+ 22.Kxc1 Kd7 which will leave Black a couple of pawns up.

10.a3

This was the end of the game, Yemelin-Jobava, Abu Dhabi 2003, where Black chose to resign at this point in time.

10...Qc5

10...Nxc3 11.Nc7+ Kd8 12.axb4 Nxd1 13.Nxa8 Nb2 14.Bc3.

11.Nxe4 Qe5 12.Bd3 and Black decided he had enough.
1–0

Game # 65
L.Kavalek – K.Burger B61
USA Ch (Ventura) 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 Bd7 7.Qd2 Rc8 8.0–0–0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Qa5 10.f4 h6 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.f5

White has a couple of alternatives at this point:

12.Be2 Qc5 13.Qd3 Bg7 (or 13...f5 14.e5 Bg7 15.Bf3 0–0 16.Rhe1 Rfd8 17.exd6 e6 18.Re3 b5 19.g4

How should Black best take advantage of his well-placed pieces?

19...b4! 20.Ne2 Bb5 21.Qd2 Rxd6! White resigned, 0–1, Kravtsiv-Dreev, Warsaw 2011) 14.f5 h5 15.Kb1 Bh6 16.Rhf1 h4 17.Nd5 Ba4 18.b3 Bd7 19.b4 Qc6 20.Rf3 Qa4 21.a3 Kf8 (21...Rg8 22.g3 Kf8 23.c4 Bc6 is close to equal) 22.c4 and White has grabbed the initiative, Anand-Xu Xinqyi, Gibraltar 2016.

12.Bc4 Qc5 13.Bb3 Qxd4 14.Rxd4 Rc5 15.Nd5 h5 16.c3 h4 17.Ba4 b5 18.Bc2 Bg7 and Black has equalized, Kovalev-Atabayev, Budapest 2017.

12...b5

A reasonable idea, but other tries for Black make more sense:

12...h5 13.Kb1 Bh6 (13...Rg8 14.g3 a6 15.Be2) 14.Nd5 Qc5 15.Qd3 Ba4 16.b3 Bc6 17.b4 Qf2 18.Nxe7 Kxe7 19.Qxd6+ Ke8 20.Qxf6 Rh7 21.Bc4 Qb6, and here White decided to force the draw with 22.Bxf7+ Rxf7 23.Qe6+ Re7 24.Qg8+ Bf8 25.Qg6+ Rf7 26.Qe6+ Re7 27.Qg6+ Rf7 28.Qe6+ Re7 29.Qg6+ ½–½, Heimann-Sprenger, Novi Sad 2016.

12...Qc5 13.Qd3 h5 14.Kb1 Bh6 15.g3 h4 16.Nd5 Bg5 17.Be2 Kf8 18.c3 Ba4 19.Rdf1 was Alekseev-Dubov, Moscow 2012, and now 19...a5 would have offered Black a satisfactory position.

The database has the game continue with 12...d5 which makes no sense at all.

13.Kb1 Rg8 14.g3 a6 15.Be2 And here the game is recorded as concluded, which seems premature. Black's position is thoroughly depressing and passive, but White still has some work to do.
1–0

Game # 66
P.Bobras (2563) – P.Czarnota (2479) B61
Warsaw rapid 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Bd7 7.Qd2 Rc8 8.f4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Qa5 10.e5 dxe5 11.fxe5 e6 12.Rd1?!

The text move has only been played in one game whereas 12.0–0–0 has been played in more than 200 games in my database. Some recent games went as follows: 12...Bc6 13.Nb5 Bxb5 14.exf6 Bc6 15.h4 g6 16.Bc4 Bc5 (16...Qc5? is clearly inferior: 17.Qd3! Qf5 18.Qb3 b5?!

How should White best continue?

19.Bxe6! fxe6 20.Rhf1 Black resigned, 1–0, Navara-Kr.Georgiev, Achaea 2016; if the queen moves then White has 21.f7#) 17.Qe5 Bb6 18.Qd6 Bc5 19.Qe5 Bb4 20.Qe3 (20.Qe2 0–0 21.Bh6 Rfd8 22.Qxe6 Qc7 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Qg4 Qd7 25.Qxd7 Rxd7 26.c3 with somewhat better chances for White, Quesada Perez-Henriquez Villagra, Buenos Aires 2015) 20...Qc5 21.Qe2 0–0 22.a3 Bxa3 23.bxa3?! (or 23.Bh6 Bd5 24.Bxd5 Qc3 25.bxa3 Qa1+ 26.Kd2 Qc3+ with a draw by perpetual check) 23...Qxa3+ 24.Kb1 Qb4+ 25.Bb3 Be4 26.Rd3 Bxd3 27.Qxd3 was Grischuk-Dreev, Apatity 2011, and now 27...Rfd8! 28.Qe2 a5 would have been difficult for White.

12...Bc6

Black continues as if White had castled queenside in the main line. However, 12...Nd5! looks good for Black, for instance, 13.Bd2 Nb4 14.Bd3 Nc6 and Black wins a pawn.

13.exf6 Qxg5

14.Ne4??

White should have played 14.Bb5!? when 14...Bxb5 15.Nxb5 Qxb5 16.fxg7 Bb4+ 17.c3 Rg8 18.cxb4 Rxg7 19.Qxg7 Qxb4+ leads to a draw by perpetual check, e.g., 20.Kf2 (or 20.Rd2 Rc1+ 21.Ke2 Qe4+) 20...Qf4+ 21.Kg1 Qe3+

14...Qh4+ White resigned.
0–1

Game # 67
D.Baretic – I.Radulov B61
Vrsac 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Bd7 7.Qd2 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Qa5 9.f4 Rc8 10.e5 dxe5 11.fxe5 Be6??

How many refutations can you find of Black's very poor 11th move?

11...e6 was discussed in our previous main game. The text move is bad for several reasons.

12.b4!? Black resigned! However, the text move is not even close to White's best move. Two clear refutations are:

12.exf6 Qxg5 (12...exf6 13.Bb5+) 13.Bb5+ Rc6 14.Rd1 and Black can only delay mate, but no longer prevent it.

12.Bb5+ Nd7 13.0–0–0 Rc6 14.Rhe1 and Black is completely busted.

After the text move, Black could have continued the game with 12.b4!? Qb6 13.Qxb6 axb6 14.exf6 Rxc3 15.Bb5+ Bd7 16.Bxd7+ Kxd7 17.0–0–0+ Ke8 18.Rhe1 when White is clearly better.
1–0

Game # 68
V.Shcherbakov – M.Taimanov B62
Soviet Ch semifinal (Leningrad) 1955

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd3 a6 8.0–0–0 Bd7 9.f4 h6 10.Bh4 g5

This idea was also seen in a couple of the games in the Najdorf chapter.

11.fxg5 Ng4 12.Qg3?!

Not a very good idea by White. The alternatives are:

12.Nf3 Nge5 13.Qe3 Be7 14.Be2 Nxf3 15.Qxf3 Ne5 16.Qf2 hxg5 17.Bg3 Qc7 18.Rhf1 f6 with at best a small plus for White, Perunovic-Drazic, Kragujevac 2009.

12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Qf3 Ne5 14.Qf6 Ng6 15.Bg3 hxg5 16.Qd4 Qa5 17.a4 Qc5 18.Bxd6 Qxd4 19.Rxd4 Bg7 and Black has excellent positional compensation for the exchange, Naiditsch-Vachier Lagrave, France 2009.

12...hxg5 13.Nf3??

How should Black continue?

White should have played 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.Be2 b5 15.Rhe1 Qf6 with somewhat better chances for Black.

13...gxh4 14.Qxg4 e5 White resigned. After 14...e5 15.Qg5, Black has the nasty. 15...Bh6
0–1

Game # 69
J.Magem Badals (2550) – J.Gil Capape (2440) B63

Spanish Team Ch (Ponferrada) 1997

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.0–0–0 0–0 9.Nb3 a6 10.f4

The theoretical main line is 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Qh6 Kh8 12.f4 Rg8 13.Qh5 Rg7 14.Be2 b5 15.Bf3 Bd7 16.Rd3 Rc8 17.Kb1 b4 with chances to both sides, Pavasovic-Todorovic, Plovdiv 2008.

10...b5 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qe2 a5?

How should White best continue?

Black should have played 12...Kh8 13.Qh5 b4 (13...Qe8 14.Bd3 Rg8 15.Nd5 exd5 16.exd5 Rg7 17.dxc6 Qxc6 18.Qe2 Qc7 was Van Riemsdijk-G.Hernandez, Bogota 1992, and now 19.Rhe1 Bf8 20.Qd2 would have been clearly better for White) 14.Ne2 e5 15.f5 Qe8 16.Rd3 Rg8 17.Rh3 Rg7 18.Ng3 Qg8, Magem Badals-Epishin, Madrid 1992, and now 19.Qh6 Bf8 20.Qe3 Be7 21.Bc4 would have left White with a clear positional advantage.

13.Qh5! a4

Or 13...Kh8 14.Bxb5 Na7 15.Rd3

14.Rd3! Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 70
S.Sulskis (2504) – C.Balogh (2567) B63
Warsaw rapid 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.0–0–0 Qb6 9.Bxf6 gxf6

The main line is 9...Bxf6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Na4 Qb7 12.Qxd6 Be7 13.Qd4 0–0 14.Bc4 Qc7 (14...Rb8 15.b3 Qc7 16.e5 Qa5 17.Rd3 Rd8?! (Black could have tried 17...Ba3+ 18.Kd1 c5 19.Qf4 Bb7 with chances to both sides but Black could well have been concerned about removing the dark-squared bishop from the defense of the kingside) 18.Qc3 Bg5+ 19.Kd1 Rb4 20.Rxd8+ Bxd8 21.Qd2 Be7 22.f4 and White is clearly better, Tiviakov-Damljanovic, Budva 2009) 15.Nc5 Qa5 16.Nd3 Rb8 17.Rhe1 c5 18.Qc3 was Edouard-Lagarde, Pau 2012, and now 18...Qxc3 19.bxc3 Rb6 would have been okay for Black.

10.Ndb5 0–0

11.Qh6! Kh8

Or 11...Ne5 12.Nd4 Re8 13.f4 Ng6 14.f5 Ne5 15.Bb5 with a strong attack for White.

12.Rd3 Rg8 13.Nxd6 Ne5

Or 13...Rg6 14.Nxf7+ Kg8 15.Rg3 Rxg3 16.hxg3 Kxf7 17.Qxh7+ Ke8 18.Nb5 a6 19.Qh5+ Kd7 20.Qd1+ and White is winning.

14.Rh3 After 14.Rh3 Rg7 15.Ne8 there will be mate in a few moves.
1–0

Game # 71
H.Kramer – C.Kottnauer B65
Beverwijk 1954

1.e4 c5 2.Ne2 Nc6 3.Nbc3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.0–0–0 0–0 9.f4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Qa5 11.e5

The other main lines are 11.Bc4 and 11.Kb1 .

11...dxe5 12.Qxe5

Here White should not recapture with the pawn: 12.fxe5 Rd8 13.Qf4 Rxd1+ 14.Kxd1 Nd5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5+ 16.Bd3 Bxg5 17.Qxg5 Bd7 (17...f5! is even better) 18.Qh4 g6 and Black has the initiative, Dimitrov-Cosma, Star Dojran 1996.

12...Qb6?

How should White continue?

Black should have exchanged queens 12...Qxe5 13.fxe5 Nd5 14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.Bd3, and now: 15...b6 (15...Nc6 16.Rhe1 Rd8 17.Be4 Bd7 18.Nb5 Rab8 19.Nd6 Nxe5 20.Bxb7 f6 21.b3 Kf8 22.c4 with somewhat better chances for White, Burg-I.Sokolov, Amsterdam 2017) 16.Be4 Rb8 17.Nb5 Bb7 18.Rhe1 a6 19.Nc7 a5 20.Rd7 Ng6 21.Nb5 Bc8 22.Rd6 Nxe5 23.Bxh7+ Kxh7 24.Rxe5 Ba6 and Black has equalized, Vitiugov-Predke, Moscow 2017.

13.Na4 Qb4

Or 13...Qc6 14.Bb5 and Black resigned, 1–0, Stisis (2350)-Manor (2465), Netanya 1993.

14.Rd4 Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 72
H.Poetsch (2403) – Y.Boidman (2444) B66
Wiesbaden 2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0–0–0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 b5??

The main line is 9...Be7 10.f3 0–0 11.h4 b5 12.Qd2 (or 12.Kb1 Bb7 13.Qd2 Rc8 14.Ne2 Qc7 15.Nd4 Rfd8 16.Bd3 b4 17.h5 d5 18.e5 Ne4 19.fxe4 dxe4 20.Bxe7 Rxd4 21.Bd6 Qb6 22.h6 exd3 23.cxd3 Rg4 and Black is not worse, Inarkiev-Baryshpolets, Baku 2014) 12...Bb7 13.Bd3 Qc7 14.Ne2 d5 15.e5

Ne4 16.fxe4 dxe4 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Nf4 (18.Bxe4 Bxe4 19.Qf4 Bxg2 20.Rhg1 Bd5 would only be slightly better for Black) 18...exd3 19.Qxd3 was played in Maze-Demuth, Agen 2016, and now 19...Rac8 20.Qd6 Be4! 21.c3 Qb7 would have been clearly better for Black.

10.e5!

Black could have resigned at this point.

10...b4

Or 10...h6 11.exf6 b4 12.Ne4,1–0, Nataf-Delorme, France 2003.

11.Ne4 Qa5 12.exf6 Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 73
I.Nepomniachtchi (2730) – I.Sudakova (2350) B67
European Ch rapid (Warsaw) 2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0–0–0 Bd7 9.f4 b5 10.Qe1 Be7?!

10...Nxd4 11.Rxd4 Qb6 is the main line.

11.e5

11...dxe5??

Black promptly blunders. She should have played 11...Nxd4 12.Rxd4 dxe5 13.fxe5 Nd5 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 (14...Nxe7 15.Ne4 0–0 16.Nd6 Qb6 17.Rd2 Nd5 18.Bd3 Qe3 19.Qxe3 Nxe3 20.Be4 was slightly better for White in Vaisberg-Bykova, Moscow 1959) 15.Nxd5 exd5 16.Qg3 0–0 17.Bd3 b4 18.Qh4 Qxh4 19.Rxh4 with a clear advantage for White, Kraiouchkine-Sankalp, Montreal 2010.

12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Rxd8+ Rxd8 14.fxe5 Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 74
J.Friedel (2551) – W.Schill (2229) B68
Las Vegas 2009

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0–0–0 Bd7 9.f4 Be7 10.Nf3 b5 11.e5 b4 12.exf6 bxc3 13.Qxc3 gxf6

Here White played 14.Rxd6 intending 14...Bxd6 15.Bxf6, how should Black respond to this?

14.Rxd6

The main line is 14.Bh4, and now:

14...Rc8 15.Bxa6 Rc7 16.Bb5 d5 17.Nd4 Nb4 18.Bxd7+ Qxd7 19.Qb3 0–0 20.a3 Na6 21.Rhe1 Nc5 22.Qf3 Ne4 with chances to both sides, Hamdouchi-Durarbayli, Al Ain 2012.

14...d5 15.Kb1 Rc8 16.Qd2 Qc7 17.g4 a5 18.g5 f5 19.Bb5 Nb4 20.Bxd7+ Qxd7 21.c3 was Salgado Lopez-Acs, Paks 2011, and now 21...Nc6 22.Bf2 a4 would have promised Black adequate counterplay.

14...a5 15.Bb5 Nb4 16.Bxd7+ Qxd7 17.Kb1 Rc8 18.Qb3 0–0 19.f5 Nxc2 20.Ne5 Qd8 21.Rhf1 d5 22.fxe6, and here Black chose to force a draw with 22...Na3+ 23.Ka1 Nc2+ 24.Kb1 Na3+ 25.Ka1 Nc2+ 26.Kb1, ½–½, Paravyan-Eliseev, Loo 2016.

14...Bxd6 15.Bxf6 Bb4! White resigned at this point. The same happened in Salmensuu-Yrjola, 1994 and Oltean (2380) - Tischbierek (2495), Berlin 1990. Whereas a young Nakamura played on and somehow managed to save a draw after 15...Bb4 16.Bxh8 Bxc3 17.Bxc3, Nakamura-Lawson, New York 1999.
0–1

CHAPTER FIVE

Taimanov, Kan & Paulsen Variations

Game # 75
G.Marco – G.Maroczy B41
Ostend 1905

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.Nd2 d5 7.e5 Nfd7 8.f4 Nc6 9.c3 g5??

Very ambitious play by Black. How should White best respond?

If Black wanted to play ...g7–g5, then 9...Nxd4 10.Bxd4 g5 would have been a better way to do it although still not good: 11.Qh5 (11.f5) 11...gxf4 12.0–0–0 h6 13.h4 b5 14.Bd3 b4 15.Rhf1 and White is completely winning, Garces-Gutierrez Castillo, Cienfuegos 1976.

10.Nxe6!

The refutation.

10...fxe6 11.Qh5+ Ke7 12.f5!

This is the point, threatening Bxg5+ and f5–f6. Black is finished.

12...Nf6 13.Bc5+ Black resigned.

1–0

Game # 76
J.Rigo (2385) – S.Martinovic (2445) B42
Chianciano 1989

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.0–0 Qc7 7.Kh1 d6 8.f4 g6 9.Nc3 Bg7 10.e5

A better option for White is 10.Qe1 Nbd7 11.f5 gxf5 12.exf5 e5 13.Bg5 0–0 14.Nf3 Re8 15.Qg3 Kh8 16.Qh4 with better chances for White, Pitl-Dobosz, Austria 2007.

10...dxe5 11.fxe5

White can also play the very sharp 11.Ndb5 to try to take advantage of Black's weak dark squares and the un-castled king: 11...axb5 12.Nxb5 Qc5 13.fxe5 Ne4, and now: 14.Qe2 (14.Qf3 0–0 15.Qxe4 Bd7 16.Be3 Qxe5 17.Qxb7?? (White should have played 17.Qxe5 Bxe5 18.c3 Bc6 with chances to both sides) 17...Bc6 18.Qb6 Qd5 19.Rf2 Nd7 and White resigned, 0–1, Loskutov-Askarov, Tomsk 2006) 14...Bd7 15.Be3 Qc6 16.Qf3 f5 17.exf6 and here a draw was agreed upon, ½–½, in Glek-Lau, Ostend 1993. There's obviously plenty left to play for.

11...Qxe5 12.Nb3 Qc7 13.Bf4 Qb6

14.Bd6??

This is one of those instances where a moment of chess blindness decides the game.

If instead 14.Qf3 Nbd7 15.Rad1 0–0 then White would have had compensation for the pawn but not more than that.

14...Qxd6 When White played 14.Bd6 he must have counted on being able to answer 14...Qxd6 with 15.Bb5+ but missing 15...Ke7 until Black captured the bishop.
0–1

Game # 77
P.Popovic (2535) – P.Schlosser (2500) B42
Brno 1992

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.0–0 Nc6 8.Qg4 Qf6 9.Nc3 Nge7 10.Bg5 Qg6 11.Qh4 Ne5?

Now White cannot capture on e7 because of the knight fork on f3. How should White best continue?

Black should have played 11...f6 12.Bd2 (12.Bf4 h5 (12...Ne5 13.Be2 Qf7 14.Qg3 0–0 when White is at best marginally better) 13.Bd6 Ne5 14.Qf4 h4 15.Rad1 N7c6 16.Be2 Nf7 17.Bc5 b6 18.Be3 Bb8 with more or less equal

chances, Turkov-Rohde, ICCF email 2009) 12...Qf7 13.Kh1 g5 14.Qh6 Qg6 15.Qh3 Ne5 16.f4 gxf4 17.Rxf4 0–0 18.Raf1 d6 as played in Popovic-Martinovic, Novi Sad 2000, and now 19.Be3!? Bxe3 20.Qxe3 N7c6 21.Be2 Qg7 22.Qf2 would have left White with the better chances.

12.Be2! Black resigned because he can't save both the queen and the knight on e7.
1–0

Game # 78
A.Alexikov (2386) – N.Khurtsidze (2391) B42
Alushta 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0–0 b5 8.Qe2 Bb7 9.a4 b4 10.Na2 d5

The alternatives are:

10...e5 11.Nb3 Nc6 12.c3 bxc3 13.bxc3 Be7 14.Nb4 Nb8 15.a5 0–0 16.Bg5 Qc8 17.Rfc1 when White has no more than a tiny edge, Krejci-Bernasek, Frydek Mistek 2009.

10...Be7 11.Bd2 a5 12.c3 bxc3 13.Nxc3 0–0 14.Rad1 Nbd7 15.Ndb5 Nc5 16.Bc2 Qb6 17.Be3 Rac8 and the chances are very close to equal, Aveskulov-Milov, Ottawa 2007.

11.e5

How should Black continue, 11...Ne4 or 11...Nfd7?

11...Nfd7??

Or 11...Ne4 12.c3 Nd7 13.f3 Nec5 14.Nxb4 a5 15.Nbc6 Bxc6 16.Nxc6 Qb6 17.Bb5 Nb3+ 18.Be3 Bc5 19.Rae1 and White has the better chances, Black doesn't have enough compensation for the pawn, Smirin-Markowski, Plovdiv 2003.

12.Nxe6! fxe6

12...Qb6 13.Nxf8 Nxf8 14.Qg4 Ne6 15.Qxb4 Nd7 16.Qxb6 Nxb6 17.a5 and White is winning, Solodovnichenko-Vilela de Acuna, Figueres 2006.

13.Qh5+ Ke7 14.Bg5+ Nf6 15.exf6+ and Black resigned, because 15...gxf6 will be met by 16.Bxf6+ Kxf6 17.Qh4, skewering the queen.
1–0

Game # 79
A.Shirov (2719) – S.Fedorchuk (2619) B42
FIDE World Cup (Khanty-Mansiysk) 2009

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Be7 7.Be3 Bf6?!

This is a highly unusual and not very good idea.

The more common choices for Black are:

7...d6 8.N1d2 Nd7 9.f4 Qc7 10.Qf3 Ngf6 11.0–0–0 b5 12.g4 Nc5 13.Nxc5 dxc5 as played in Ni Hua-Avrukh, Dagomys 2008, when 14.g5 Nd7 15.e5 would have left White with the better chances.

7...Nf6 8.N1d2 d6 9.g4 h5 10.gxh5 Nxh5 11.Qe2 Bg5 12.Nc4 Nf4 13.Qg4 Rh4 14.Qg3 with a good game for White, Vachier Lagrave-Svidler, Biel 2016.

7...Nc6 8.a4 Nf6 9.a5 d5 10.Bb6 Qd6 11.Nc3 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 Qb4+ 14.Nd2 Ne5 15.0–0 0–0 was seen in Anand-Fedoseev, Dubai 2014, and now 16.b3 f5 17.Ra4 Qb5 18.Bf3 would have left White with a slightly better game.

8.c3 Nc6 9.N1d2 Nge7

How should White best continue?

10.Nc4!

Black is already in serious trouble. The main threats are Nd6+ and Bb6.

10...d5?

Black immediately panics; he should have played 10...Be5 11.Bb6 Bc7 12.Nd6+ Kf8 13.Bxc7 Qxc7 14.Be2 when White is only clearly better.

11.Bb6

Now White is winning.

11...dxc4 12.Bxd8 cxd3 13.Bxe7 Kxe7 14.Qxd3 Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 80
P.Cramling (2405) – G.Forintos (2425) B43
Zuerich 1984

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 b5 6.Bd3 Bb7 7.0–0 Qc7 8.Re1 Bd6 9.Bxb5

I'm not sure why White decided to go for this. The alternatives are:

9.Nf3 Bc5 10.Bd2 Nc6 11.e5 f5 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Ne4 Nxe4 14.Rxe4 0–0 with chances to both sides, Soltanici-Vazquez Igarza, Benasque 2017.

9.h3 Nc6 10.Be3 Nf6 11.Nb3 0–0 12.a4 b4 13.Nb1 Be5 14.Qc1 Bh2+ 15.Kh1 d5 16.N1d2 Be5 and Black has at least equalized, Kalashian-Mikaelyan, Yerevan 2016.

9...Bxh2+ 10.Kh1 Be5 11.Bf1 Nf6 12.Qd2 Ng4 13.f4 Bxd4

13...Bf6 Black could also consider 14.Nf3 d6 with a comfortable position.

14.Qxd4 Qa5 15.e5

How should Black best respond to this aggressive move?

White should have given preference to 15.f5 Qd8 16.g3 0–0 17.Be2 Nc6 which can only be more comfortable for Black.

15...Qd8! White resigned. Preventing 16...Qh4 with mate will cost White serious material.
0–1

Game # 81
I.Nataf (2485) – G.Kasparov (2825) B43
ICC INT 1998

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bd3 Qb6 7.Nb3 Qc7 8.0–0 Nf6 9.f4 b4 10.Ne2 Bb7 11.Ng3 h5 12.e5?

How should Black best continue?

The main line is 12.Qe2, and now a recent game went 12...h4 13.Nh1 h3 14.g4 a5 15.g5 a4 16.Nd4 Bc5 17.c3 Nh5 18.Be3 Qb6 19.Nc2 Na6 with chances to both sides, Galiana Salom-Fedorchuk, Llucmajor 2017.

12...h4!?

Black can do better with 12...Qb6+! 13.Kh1 (White's best is 13.Rf2 Ng4 14.Qe2 a5 which is far from pleasant for White) 13...h4 14.Rf3 (or 14.Ne2 h3, 0–1, Pym-Gordon, Port Erin 2004) 14...hxg3 15.Be3 Rxh2+ 16.Kg1 Rxg2+ 17.Kxg2 Qxe3 and White resigned, 0–1, Sammalvuo-Seeman, Myyrmanni 1999.

13.Nh1?

After 13.Ne2 Nd5 14.Rf2 a5 Black has a comfortable position but this is obviously to be preferred over the game continuation.

13...h3! White resigned. This is rather premature, but it is hard to fault White for not continuing when 14.Rf2 hxg2 15.Ng3 Nd5 is the best he can hope for. **0–1**

Game # 82
Xu Yuhua (2487) – D.Ciuksyte (2361) B43
Calvia ol (Women) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bd3 Qb6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.0–0 Qb8 9.e5 Nge7 10.Be4 Bb7 11.Re1 f5?

How should White react to this pawn push?

Very direct and very weakening. Black's alternatives are:

11...Qc7 12.Bf4 (12.h4 h6 13.h5 0–0–0 14.Be3 f5 15.Bd3 g5 16.Bxb5 g4 (16...f4!?) 17.Nd2 Nxe5 18.Qe2 axb5 19.Nxb5 Ba6 20.c4 with clearly better chances for White, Najer-Smirin, Moscow 2003) 12...f5 13.exf6 Qxf4 14.fxe7 Bxe7 15.Qd3 0–0–0 16.a4 d5 17.Bxh7 b4 18.Rxe6 bxc3 19.bxc3 Bf6 20.Rb1 Kc7 with a messy position and chances to both sides, Carlsen-Kulaots, Gausdal 2005.

11...Ng6 12.h4 d6 13.exd6 Qxd6 14.Qe2 (14.h5 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 Nge7 16.Bf4 Na5 17.h6 b4 18.Bxb7 Nxb7 19.Ne4 Nd5 20.Be5 f6 21.Bd4 and White has the clearly better chances, Efimenko-Mahjoob, Dubai 2004) 14...Be7 15.Bg5 Qc7 16.Rad1 Rd8 17.h5 Nf4 18.Rxd8+ Bxd8 19.Bxf4 Qxf4 20.Nxb5! and White is clearly better, Haslinger-Neiksans, Balaguer 2010.

12.exf6! gxf6 13.Nh4! h5

Or 13...d5 14.Bxd5 exd5 15.Nxd5 Ne5 16.Qh5+ Kd8 17.Nxf6 Bg7 18.Qg5 N7g6 19.Nxg6 and Black resigned, 1–0, Stellwagen-Glud, Istanbul 2005.

14.Ng6 Nxg6 15.Bxg6+ Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 83

J.Geller (2490) – E.Shaposhnikov (2554) B43
Moscow 2007

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Be2 Nf6 6.Nc3 Qc7 7.0–0 Bb4 8.Qd3 Nc6 9.Bg5 h6

Should White move the bishop or can he exchange on c6 first?

10.Nxc6

White had to move the bishop. The options are:

10.Bh4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Bc5 12.Qd3 d6 13.Kh1 Bd7 14.f4 Bc6 15.Qg3 Kf8 16.f5 e5 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Bc4 h5 19.Nd5 and White has the upper hand, Kovalev-Damljanovic, Warsaw 2013.

10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Rad1 h5 12.Kh1 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Be7 14.f4 b5 15.e5 f5 16.Nd5!? exd5 17.e6 0–0 (17...Rh6! looks like an improvement) 18.Rd3 h4 19.Rff3 Kh7 20.Rg3 hxg3 21.Rxg3 f6 22.Rh3+ Kg7 23.Rg3+ and draw agreed, ½–½, Shirov-Ivanchuk, Tallinn 1996.

10...hxg5! Black threatens mate on h2.

11.e5 dxc6 White cannot capture the knight because of the same mate on h2. Therefore, White resigned.
0–1

Game # 84
E.Preissmann (2320) – T.Manouck (2400) B43
St Maxime 1982

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 b5 7.Bg2 Bb7 8.0–0 d6 9.Re1

While this variation looks modest, it can be fantastically lethal if Black is not careful.

9...Nf6

Black should probably play 9...Nd7 although 10.a4 is far from easy for Black to handle.

10.Bg5

White also scores really well with 10.a4, e.g., 10...b4 11.Nd5 exd5 12.exd5+ Kd8 13.Bg5 Qc4 14.c3 b3 15.Bxf6+ gxf6 16.Qh5 Qc7 17.Re3 Bc8 18.Rae1 Qd7 was Ponizil-Bilguun, Pardubice 2016, and now 19.Bh3 Qxh3 20.Qxf7 Qd7 21.Ne6+ would have been the most direct win.

10...Be7

Black has also tried 10...Nbd7, and after 11.Nd5:

11...exd5 12.exd5+ Kd8 13.Nc6+ Bxc6 14.dxc6 Nc5 15.a4 bxa4 16.Be3 Ne6 17.Rxa4 Be7 18.b4 with a winning advantage for White, Perez Mitjans-Vasquez Schroder, Barcelona 2014.

11...Nxd5 12.exd5 e5 13.Qg4 (13.a4! bxa4 14.Nc6 Nb8 15.Rxa4 f6 16.Bd2 Be7 17.Qg4 0–0 18.Ba5 Bxc6 19.Bxc7 Bxa4 20.Qxa4 and Black resigned, 1–0, Papp-Bernasek, Brno 2006) 13...h6 14.Ne6 Qc8 15.Bd2 Rg8 16.Nxf8 Kxf8 17.Bb4 Nc5 18.Qh4 f5 19.Qh5 Ke7 20.Qg6 Qe8 21.Qxf5 Game over! 1–0, Rozentalis-Reshetnikov, Chalkida 2009.

11.Bxf6 gxf6

Or 11...Bxf6 12.Ndxb5 axb5 13.Nxb5 Qb6 14.Nxd6+ Ke7 15.Nxb7 Bd4? (the untried 15...Be5 16.Qh5 Nc6 is Black's best chance) 16.Qd2 Nd7 17.Rad1 e5 18.c3 and White is winning, Bodnaruk-Ambartsumova, Sochi 2016.

12.Qh5 0–0

How should White continue?

13.Nd5!

White also wins after 13.Bh3! Bc8 14.Bf5! exf5 15.Nxf5 Bxf5 16.exf5 Kh8 17.Qh6 and Black can resign.

13...Qd8 14.Nf5 Black resigned. After 14.Nf5 exf5 15.exf5 Bxd5 16.Bxd5 Black has no defense against the many threats.
1–0

Game # 85
B.Chabradze (2161) – J.Ivanov (2370) B44
Sautron 2007

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nb5 d6 6.Bf4 e5 7.Bg5 Qxg5

This line scores heavily in Black's favor.
The alternative is 7...Nf6 8.N1c3 transposing into a Sveshnikov Sicilian.

8.Nc7+ Kd8

8...Kd7 9.Nxa8 b6 10.Nc3 Bb7 11.Nxb6+ axb6 12.Nd5 Qd8 13.Qg4+ Ke8 14.Bb5 Nf6 15.Qf3 Nd7 16.c3 Be7 17.0–0 Kf8 with chances to both sides, Grafl-Fogarasi, Budapest 2004.

9.Nxa8 Nf6 10.Nc3 Be7

Or 10...Nd4!? 11.h4 Qg4 12.Qd3 Be6 13.g3?! Qf3 14.Qxf3 Nxf3+ 15.Ke2 Nd4+ 16.Kd3 Ng4 17.Nd1 f5 18.Bg2 fxe4+ 19.Bxe4 d5 20.Bg2 Bd6 21.c3 Nc6 and White resigned, 0–1, Gyger-Stull, ICCF email 2009.

11.Nd5 Nxe4 12.Nac7

White should have played 12.c3 Bg4 13.h4 Qg6 14.Qd3 Kd7 15.Nac7 Bd8 16.Nb5 with a sharp position and chances to both sides.

12...Bg4 13.Be2 Bxe2 14.Qxe2

14...Nd4??

Black gets a little too eager and drops a piece. The knight has to get to d4 but the knight on e4 has to be protected first... After 14...Qxg2 15.0–0–0 Bg5+ 16.Kb1 Nd4 Black has a good game.

15.Qxe4
1–0

Game # 86
I.Gunsberg – J.Blackburne B45
London match 1881

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Ndb5 Nf6 7.Nd6+ Ke7 8.Bf4 e5 9.Nf5+ Kf8

This rare line has been played more than 150 times in my database. Black generally doesn't have any problems.

10.Bd2

The alternative is 10.Bg5 d5 11.exd5 Bxf5 12.dxc6 Qxd1+ 13.Rxd1 bxc6 14.Bd3 Be6 15.0–0 Nd5 16.Ne2 f5 with more or less even chances, Babujian-Chibukhchian, Tbilisi 2007.

10...Bxc3 11.Bxc3 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5

13.Bc4??

White should have played 13.Ne3 Nxc3 14.Qxd8+ Nxd8 15.bxc3 Be6 with fairly even chances.

13...Nxc3 and White resigned as he will end up a piece down.
0–1

Game # 87
Y.Solodovnichenko (2422) – V.Malakhatko (2513) B45
Ukrainian Team Ch (Alushta) 2001

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Ne4 Bb7 9.c4 f5 10.cxd5 fxe4 11.dxc6 dxc6 12.Qb3 Qb6 13.Qxe6+ Be7 14.Bc4 Rf8 15.0–0

How should Black continue?

A dreadful blunder. After 15.Be3 Qb4+ (or 15...Bc8 16.Qxe7+ Kxe7 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.Rc1 and White is at best marginally better) 16.Bd2 Qb6 17.Be3 Qb4+ a draw was agreed upon, ½–½, in Delega-Janczarski, Warsaw 2007, but White would have been better after 18.Kf1 Qxb2 19.g4 c5 (19...Qxa1+?? 20.Kg2 and Black has no adequate answer to the Bc5 threat) 20.Rd1 Rd8 21.Rd6 with clearly better chances for White.

15...Bc8! The queen is trapped. White resigned. After 15...Bc8 16.Be3 Bxe6 17.Bxb6 Bxc4 18.Rfc1 axb6 19.Rxc4 White is simply a piece down.
0–1

Game # 88
A.Brkic (2477) – P.Piscopo (2353) B45
Mitropa Cup (Steinbrunn) 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Ne4 Qc7 9.f4 Rb8 10.Bd3 c5 11.c4

Or 11.Qe2 Be7 12.0–0 Bb7 13.b3 f5 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Bb2 c4 16.Nxf6+ gxf6 17.Bxc4 Rg8 and Black is doing fine, Landa-Piscopo, Reggio Emilia 2006.

11...Nb4 12.Bb1 Be7 13.b3 0–0

How should White best continue?

14.Nf6+
14.Qh5! h6 (or 14...f5 15.exf6 g6 16.Qh6 Bxf6 17.Nxf6+ Rxf6 18.Bb2 Qd8 19.Qg5 and White is winning) 15.Nf6+ Kh8 16.Ng4 and Black has a hard time meeting Nxh6 with devastation.
After the text move, Black didn't need to resign, but it required some precision which you will definitely not see by resigning too soon: 14.Nf6+ gxf6 15.Qg4+ Kh8 16.exf6 Nd3+! 17.Bxd3 Bxf6 18.Qh3 Bc3+ 19.Kd1 f5 and Black is still alive.
1–0

Game # 89
A.Motylev (2663) – R.Ponomariov (2709) B45

European Ch Blitz (Tallinn) 2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f4 Bd7 8.Qf3 Nxd4 9.Bxd4 Qa5 10.Bc4 Bc6

Or 10...Rc8 11.Bb3 e5 12.Bf2 Be7 13.0–0 0–0 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.Bh4 Be6 16.Kh1 Kh8 17.Qe2 Qb6 with chances to both sides, Karjakin-Yu Yuhua, Dubai 2014.

11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Bb3 f5 13.0–0–0 Bg7

What happens if White captures the pawn on d6?

14.Rxd6 Bxc3 15.bxc3??

Or 15.Qxc3 Qxc3 16.bxc3 Bxe4 with better chances for Black.

15...Qa3+ Ouch, the rook is falling. White resigned.
0–1

Game # 90
S.Wagman – E.Canal B45
Reggio Emilia 1965

1.e4 e6 2.d4 c5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bf4 Ne5 8.Be2 Qe7??

How should White best continue?

Black should have played 8...a6 9.Bxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.0–0–0+ Bd7 12.Nd6 Bxd6 13.Rxd6 Ke7 with more or less equal chances.

9.Qd4! Black resigned. There is no good way to meet the threat of Qa4.
1–0

Game # 91
A.Reggio – S.Tarrasch B45
Monte Carlo 1902

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.Bf4

The main line is 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5 9.exd5 exd5 which has been played over 5000 in my database.

7...Nxe4

Why is it that White can't play 8.Nc7+ followed by Nxa8 at this point?

8.Nc7+ Kf8 9.Nxa8?

The better choice for White is 9.Qf3, and now:

9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 Qf6 11.0–0–0 Ba3+ 12.Kb1 Rb8 13.Nb5 Bc5 14.Bxb8 Qxf3 15.gxf3 Nxb8 16.Nd6 Ke7 17.Nxc8+ Rxc8 with better chances for Black, Romanenko-Bunkov, Alapaevsk 2007.

9...d5 10.0–0–0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 g5 12.Qxe4 Qxc7 13.Bxc7 dxe4 14.Bb5 Kg7 15.h4 g4 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Rhe1 f6 18.Rxe4 thus far, Gaponenko-O.Foisor, Baile Tusnad 1997, and now 18...h5 19.Rd6 Re8 would have been best although White still has the initiative in the endgame.

9...Qf6!

This is the refutation. Now White's position is critical.

10.Qf3 Nxc3 11.Bd2 Nd4 12.Qd3 Qe5+ 13.Be3??

Here White should have played 13.Be2 Nxc2+ 14.Kf1 Ne4 15.Bxb4+ Nxb4 16.Qa3 Qc5 17.Qe3 Qxe3 18.fxe3 Nc2 19.Bd3 Nxa1 20.Bxe4 d5 21.Bd3 Ke7 22.Nc7 Bd7 when Black is only clearly better.

13...Na4+ 14.c3 Nxb2 15.Qb1 Bxc3#
0–1

Game # 92
S.Marjanovic – D.Rajkovic B46
Yugoslav Team Ch (Donji Milanovac) 1979

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 Nge7 7.Bf4 d6 8.Nxc6 Nxc6 9.Qd2 Be7 10.0–0 0–0 11.Rfd1 Ne5 12.Qd4

White can also play 12.a4 Qc7 13.a5 b5 14.axb6 Qxb6 15.Be3 Qc6 16.Ra4 Nd7 17.Rc4 Qb7 18.f4 Rb8 19.b3 and White is control of the game, Apicella-Belkhodja, Val Maubuee 1990.

12...Qc7 13.Rd2 Rd8 14.Rad1 h6??

Why is the text move a blunder?

Black's best is 14...Bd7 15.Na4 Bxa4 16.Qxa4 b5 17.Qd4 Rac8 18.Qe3 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Qxc4 and Black has equalized, Balje-Jobe, IECC email 2000.

15.Bxe5! Black resigned. The key to Black's resignation is the second move in the sequence: 15.Bxe5! dxe5 16.Qc4! when Black cannot guard both queen and rook sufficiently.
1–0

Game # 93

O.Zambrana (2495) – J.Sunye Neto (2486) B46
Sao Paulo zonal 2007

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Qd2 Ng4!? 8.Bg5 White can also consider 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Bf4 d5 10.Be2 where I would prefer White.

8...Qc7 9.Nb3

White has to address the immediate threats of 9...Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Bc5. Some other tries have included 9.h3 Nge5 (the untried 9...Nxf2!? is interesting, for instance, 10.Qxf2 Nxd4 11.0–0–0 (11.Qxd4? Qg3+) 11...Nc6 gives White some compensation for the pawn but whether it's enough is another question) 10.Nb3 b5 11.0–0–0 f6 12.Bf4 Be7 13.Bh2 0–0 14.f4 Nf7 15.g4 Na5 with chances to both sides, Smirnov-Savchenko, Cappelle-la-Grande 2009.

9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.h3 Ne5 11.0–0–0 Rb8 12.Be3 Qa5 13.Bd4 Ng6 14.f4 e5 15.fxe5 Be7 and Black has excellent play for the pawn, Spoelman-Movsesian, Wijk aan Zee 2008.

9...Bd6 10.f4??

Or 10.Be2 h6 11.Bxg4 hxg5 12.Qxg5 Be5 13.g3 Na5 14.Nxa5 Qxa5 15.Qd2 Qb4 16.0–0–0 as played in Mamedov-Makropoulou, Chalkis 2010, and now 16...Bxc3 17.Qxc3 Qxc3 18.bxc3 b5 looks okay for Black.

10...h6!

Just like that, White's position falls apart.

11.e5?

11.0–0–0 hxg5 12.Qxd6 Qxd6 13.Rxd6 gxf4 is obviously also bad for White.

11...Bxe5 12.fxe5 Qxe5+ 13.Be2 hxg5 14.0–0–0 Nf2 White resigned.
0–1

Game # 99
E.Moskalyuk (2365) – M.Brodsky (2545) B47
Cappelle la Grande 1998

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 a6 7.0–0 Nf6 8.f4??

This blunder was committed in more than 25 games in my database.

The main lines are 8.Be3, 8.Kh1, and 8.a3.

8...Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Bc5 White resigned.
0–1

Game # 94
D.Losev (2396) – V.Rogovski (2446) B47
Alushta 2001

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0–0 a6 8.Kh1 Bb4 9.f4 Bxc3 10.bxc3 Nxe4 11.Nxc6 dxc6?

How should White best continue?

Black's best choice is 11...Qxc6 12.Ba3 (or 12.c4 b5 13.Ba3 Bb7 14.Qe1 d6 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Bb2 0–0 17.Bd3 Nc5 18.Qg3 f6 and Black is up a pawn without any compensation for White, Verseghi-Dietrich, ICCF corr 2000) 12...Qxc3 13.Qc1 b5 (13...d6 14.Bf3 Nd2 15.Bb2 Qa5 16.Qe1 0–0 17.Be2 b6 18.Bd3 Nxf1 19.Qh4, and now instead of 19...h6?? as played in Bergstrom-Eriksson, Sweden 2001, which allowed (but which wasn't played) (19...h5! 20.Rxf1 Bb7 21.f5 Qd5 22.Rf2 f6 and Black is winning) 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qg4+ Kh8 22.Qh4 h5 23.Qf6+ Kg8 24.Qh6 f5 25.Qg6+ with a perpetual check, Black should have played) 14.f5 Bb7 15.Bb2 Qd2 16.Qxd2 Nxd2 17.Rf4 exf5 18.Rd1 Ne4 19.Bxg7 Rg8 20.Bd4 Rc8 and Black has the better chances, Stefansson-Miladinovic, Agios Nikolaos 1995.

12.Qd4! f5??

Now things get even worse. After 12...Nf6 13.Ba3 b5 14.Bd6 Qd7 15.Rad1 White is "only" clearly better.

13.Bh5+ Kf8 14.Rd1 Black resigned.

1–0

Game # 95
L.Seres (2465) – O.Zigura (2401) B47
Bagneux 2002

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qc7 5.Nc3 e6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Ndb5 Qb8 8.Bf4 Ne5?

What is White's best move?

Black should have played 8...e5 9.Bg5 a6 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Na3 Bxa3 12.bxa3 Ne7 13.Qf3 Qc7 14.Bg2 d6 15.0–0 with somewhat better chances for White, A.Ivanov-I.Ivanov, USA 1989.

9.Be2!

The idea is to play Qd4 but first the f3–square has to be covered.

9...a6

Also 9...Bc5 10.Bxe5 Qxe5 11.f4 Qb8 12.e5 a6 13.exf6 axb5 14.Ne4 Bf8 15.Qd4 Rg8 16.Bxb5 and White is winning, Fernandez Garcia-Shankland, Barcelona 2012.

10.Qd4 Nc6

Or 10...d6 11.0–0–0 axb5 12.Bxe5 Bd7 (12...Be7 13.Bxb5+ Bd7 14.Bxd7+ Nxd7 15.Bxd6 Bxd6 16.Qxd6 Qxd6 17.Rxd6 and White is two pawns up in the ending and easily winning, Yurtaev-Prasad, Kolkata 2001) 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Qxf6 Rg8 15.Bh5 Rg7 16.e5 Qd8 17.Ne4 Ra6 18.Nxd6+ Rxd6 19.Qxd8+ Kxd8 20.exd6 and White is winning, Amanov-Utegaliev, Pavlodar 2013.

11.Bxb8 Nxd4 12.Nc7+ Kd8 13.Nxa8 Nxc2+ 14.Kd2 Nxa1 15.Bc7+ Ke8 and Black resigned at the same time.
1–0

Game # 96
I.Tarasov (2350) – A.Poluljahov (2510) B48
Russan Team Ch (Orel) 1997

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Bd3 b5 8.0–0 Bb7 9.f4

If Black were to play 9...Bc5, how should 10.Nf5 be assessed?

9.Qe2 Nf6 10.f4 Nxd4 (or 10...Nb4?! 11.a3 Nxd3 12.cxd3 d6 13.a4 b4 14.Na2 Qd7 15.Rac1 Qxa4 16.Rc7 Bc8 17.b3 and Black is in severe trouble, Motylev-Savchenko, Moscow 2008) 11.Bxd4 Bc5 12.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 13.Kh1 Qh5 14.Qxh5 Nxh5 15.e5 f5 16.Be2 g6 was played in Najer-Bukavshin, Moscow 2015, and now White should have played 17.Rad1 Ke7 18.Rd4 Bc6

19.Kg1 with a tiny edge for White.

9...Bc5

Also 9...Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Bc5 11.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 12.Kh1 Ne7 13.Qg4 0–0 14.e5 f5 15.Qe2 Kh8 is easier for Black to play, for instance, 16.Rae1?! g5! (opening a file towards White's king) 17.fxg5 Rg8 18.Qf2 Qb4 19.h4? (White foolishly tries to hold on to the g5–pawn but instead ends weakening the rest of the kingside) 19...Ng6 20.h5? Qh4+ 21.Kg1 Qxh5, White is completely busted and resigned at this point, 0–1, Ruiz-Cori Tello, Panama City 2013.

10.Nf5?

10.Nce2 is more solid but still comfortable for Black, e.g., 10...Nf6 11.c3 Be7 12.Ng3 h5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Qe2 g5 15.Rae1 gxf4 16.Bxf4 Nxf4 17.Rxf4 f5 with a strong initiative for Black, Lauridsen-Spraggett, Coria del Rio 2002.

10...Qb6!

Now White is in real trouble.

11.Nxg7+ Kf8

White loses a piece and will not receive adequate compensation.

12.Bxc5+ Qxc5+ 13.Kh1 Kxg7 14.e5 f5 White resigned.
0–1

Game # 97
A.Petrushin (2473) – I.Shkurikhin (2350) B48
Moscow 2007

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Be3 b5 8.Nxc6 Qxc6 9.0–0 Bb7 10.a3 Nf6 11.Qf3 Bc5?!

A more solid option for Black is 11...Bd6!? 12.Bf4 0–0 13.Rfe1 Bxf4

14.Qxf4 d6 15.Re3 Nd7 16.Qh4 Ne5 17.Nd5 Ng6 and Black has equalized, Leko-Kramnik, Dortmund 2005.

12.Qg3 0–0 13.e5

Here Black played 13...Nh5, intending to meet 14.Qh3 with 14...g6 followed by ...f7–f5 with an active position and play against White's kingside. What did he miss?

13...Nh5?

Black should have played 13...Bxe3!? 14.fxe3 Nh5 15.Qh3 f5 16.exf6 Nxf6 17.Rxf6 Rxf6 18.Qxh7+ Kf7 19.Ne4 Qd5 with a sharp position and somewhat better chances for White.

14.Qh3 g6??

Black's last chance to bail out was 14...Bxe3 when 15.Be4 Qc7 16.Bxb7 Qxb7 17.Qxe3 f5 18.Rfd1 would leave White with a clear advantage.

15.Be4! Black resigned because he loses at least a piece, e.g., 15.Be4 Qc7 16.Bxb7 Bxe3 17.Bxa8 Bd4 18.Bf3 and he is a rook down.
1–0

Game # 98
M.Ragger (2700) – J-U.Maiwald (2448) B48

German Bundesliga (Dresden) 2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qf3 d6 8.0–0–0 Bd7 9.Qg3 b5?

How should White best continue?

9...Nf6 (Black sometimes plays 9...Rc8, but it usually transposes promptly after 10.f3 Nf6) 10.f3 (10.f4 b5 11.Bd3 g6 12.Qf3 Rc8 13.g4 Be7 14.g5 Nh5 15.Kb1 0–0 16.Nde2 b4 17.Na4 Ne5 18.fxe5 Bxa4 19.exd6 Bxd6 and Black has taken control of the game, Eliseev-Matlakov, Kaliningrad 2015) 10...Rc8 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.Bd3 b5 13.Kb1 Nd7 (or 13...g6 14.Qh4?! Bg7 15.Bd4 e5 16.Be3 0–0 17.Bg5 Nd7 18.Qf2 Nc5 and Black is doing well, Dobrowolski-Jaracz, Poland 2016) 14.Rhe1 Nc5 15.Nd5 Qb7 16.Bd4 Nxd3 17.Rxd3 e5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Qxe5+ Be7 20.Qxg7 Rf8 was played in Lopez Martinez-Ivanisevic, Sitges 2016, and now 21.Qe5 would have been quite devastating for Black.

10.Bxb5 axb5 11.Ndxb5 Qb7

What is White's best move?

The alternatives are:

11...Qb8 12.Nxd6+ Bxd6 13.Rxd6 Nf6 14.e5 Nh5 15.Qg5 g6 16.Rhd1 and White is winning, Lentjes-Jahncke, Lueneburg 2015.

11...Qa5 12.Nxd6+ Bxd6 13.Rxd6 g6 14.Rhd1 and with three pawns and potential domination on the dark squares, White has more than enough for the sacrificed piece.

12.Qxd6 Rc8?

What is White's best move?

Black's last bid to stay in the game was 12...Nf6 13.Qc7 Rb8 14.f3 and White

has excellent compensation for the piece, but Black is still in the game.

13.Bc5 Nce7 14.Qd3 And Black resigned. In addition to the text move, White has 14.Bb6 Ng6 15.Nc7+ Qxc7 16.Qxc7 Rxc7 17.Bxc7 and White should be winning without too many problems.
After the move in the main game, a likely continuation would be 14.Qd3 Rc6 15.Nd6+ Rxd6 16.Bxd6 Nf6 17.f3 and Black is clearly completely busted.
1–0

Game # 99
J.Klovans (2481) – A.Shestoperov (2428) B49
World Ch Seniors (Rowy) 2000

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 Qc7 7.0–0 Nf6 8.Be3 Bb4 9.Na4 0–0 10.c4 Bd6 10...Be7 is the other main line.

11.g3 Nxe4 12.Bf3 Nc5??

How should White continue?

Black wants to lay a blockade on the dark squares but commits a tragic blunder in the process. Instead 12...f5!? 13.c5 Be5 14.Rc1 (14.Nb6 Rb8 leads to interesting play and chances to both sides, for instance, 15.Bxe4 fxe4 16.Rc1 Nb4 17.Qg4 Nd3 18.Qxe4 Nxc1 19.Rxc1 was played in Obregon-Hernandez Guerrero, Buenos Aires 2009, and now 19...g6 20.Rc2 Bg7 21.Bf4 e5 22.Nd5 Qd8 23.Bxe5 Re8 24.f4 d6 25.cxd6 Qxd6 26.Bxd6 Rxe4

27.Nf3 Ra8 with marginally better chances for White) 14...Nf6 15.Nb6 Rb8 16.Nc4 f4 17.Nxe5 fxe3 18.Nc4 exf2+ 19.Rxf2 Ne5 20.Nxe5 Qxe5 21.Qd3 was Sivuk-Bortnyk, Lvov 2016, and now 21...Re8 22.Re2 Qc7 with close to equal chances.

13.Nxc5! Bxc5 14.Nxc6 Black resigned because after 14.Nxc6 Bxe3 15.Ne7+ Kh8 16.fxe3, he will simply be a piece down as was the case in a game by a grandmaster: 16...Qc5 17.Nxc8 Qxe3+ 18.Kh1 Raxc8 19.Qd6 Kg8 20.Rac1 b5 21.c5 and here Black resigned, 1–0, A.David-Emms, Isle of Man 1997.

1–0

CHAPTER SIX

Kalashnikov & Sveshnikov Variations

Game # 100
R.Kholmov (2440) – E.Sveshnikov (2560) B32
Pinsk 1986

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Nc3

What is Black's best move?

The alternative is 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.Nc3 0–0 9.Bc4 (or 9.Nd5 d6 10.c3 Bg5 11.h4 Bh6 12.Bc4 Kh8 13.Qe2 Be6 14.Rd1 Qd7 15.f3 f5 16.exf5 Bxf5 with a pleasant position for Black, Murey-Goldin, Rishon Le Ziyyon 1997) 9...d6 10.0–0 Be6 11.Nd5 Bg5 12.c3 Rc8 13.Qe2 Kh8 and Black has equalized, Short-Kuderinov, Turin 2006.

7...Nxe4?? 8.Nxe4 Bxg5 9.Nd6+ Ke7 10.Bc4?

White's most accurate continuation is 10.Qd5, e.g., 10...Qc7 (or 10...Nb4 11.Qc5 Nxc2+ 12.Kd1 Kf8 (12...Nxa1 13.Nf5+ Kf6 14.Qd6+ Kxf5 15.Bd3+ e4 16.Nd4+ Kg4 17.Be2+ Kh4 18.Qg3#) 13.Kxc2 and White is winning) 11.Qxf7+ Kxd6 12.Rd1+ Nd4 13.Qxg7 Re8 14.Qxg5 and Black is busted.

10...Qb6 11.Qd5??

White should have played 11.0–0 Nd8 12.Ne4 Bh6 (or 12...Bf6 13.Qd2) 13.Qh5 Qc7 14.Bd5 d6 15.Rad1 a5 16.Qh4+ with a clear advantage for White,Murey-Goldenberg, North Bay 1997.

11...Qb4+ Black wins a piece and therefore White resigned.
0–1

Game # 101
N.Olenin (2391) – E.Mochalov (2446) B32
Orel 1999

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.c4 Be7 7.b3 f5 8.Ba3

8.exf5 Bxf5 9.Bd3 e4 10.Be2 a6 11.N5c3 Bf6 12.Bb2 Be5 13.Qd2 Nf6 14.Na3 Nb4 is better for Black, Istratescu-Fedorov, Predeal 2006.

8...Nf6 9.Nxd6+?!

After 9.N1c3 Qa5 10.Qd2 0–0 11.Nd5 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2 Nxe4+ 13.Ke1 Rd8 14.f3 Nc5 15.Nxe7+ Nxe7 16.Rd1 b6 17.Rxd6 Rxd6 18.Nxd6 White has the somewhat better chances, Sulskis-Fedorov, Plovdiv 2008.

9...Bxd6 10.Qxd6

How should Black best continue?

10...Nd4!

Another try is 10...Qxd6 11.Bxd6 Nxe4 12.Ba3 Be6 13.f3 Nf6 14.Nc3 0–0–0 15.Rc1 e4 16.Be2 e3 as in Z.Almasi-Shirov, Monte Carlo 2002, when 17.Rd1 would have promised White the somewhat better chances.

11.Bd3?!

11.Kd1?! Nxe4 12.Qxe5+? Kf7 13.Kc1 Re8 14.Qd5+ Qxd5 15.cxd5 Nxf2 (Black is already winning) 16.Rg1 Re1+ 17.Kd2 Rd1+ 18.Kc3 Ne4+ 19.Kb2 Bd7 20.Bb4 a5 21.Bc3 Nxc3 22.Nxc3 Rd2+ 23.Kb1 Rc8 24.Na4 Rd1+ and White resigned, 0–1, Mannion-Shaw, Aberdeen 2001.

11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Kd2 Nxe4+ 13.Kc1 Nxf2 14.Rg1 Kc7 15.Nc3 Be6 16.Kb2 Rad8 17.Re1 e4 18.Be7 Rd7 19.Bh4 Ng4 and Black has the better chances, Jedryczka-Moiseenko, Polanica Zdroj 1999.

11...fxe4 12.Qxe5+? Kf7 13.Bb2 Nc6! White resigned as he loses the bishop on d3.
0–1

Game # 102
M.Gebigke (2232) – S.Kalinitschew (2475) B32
Berlin Ch 2010

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.Be2 Be6 7.0–0 a6 8.N5c3 Nf6 9.Be3 Rc8

Or 9...Be7 10.Nd5!? with better chances for White.

10.f3

White has also tried 10.Bf3 h6 11.Qd2 Ne7 12.Rd1 Ng6 13.a4 Be7 14.a5 0–0 15.g3 Kh7?! (15...Qd7!? is a clear improvement) 16.Na4 Rc6 17.Nbc3 Ng4 18.Nb6 Bg5 19.Bxg5 hxg5, Chandler-Spraggett, Hastings 1989, and now 20.Ncd5 intending Nb4 would have secured White a clear advantage.

10...Be7 11.Nd5

Can Black play 11...Bxd5 12.exd5 Nd4 intending to meet 13.Bxd4 exd4 14.Qxd4 with 14...Rxc2?

11...Bxd5 12.exd5 Nd4? 13.Bxd4 exd4 14.Qxd4 Rxc2 15.Qa4+! This is the refutation of Black's idea. Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 103
B.Bondarev (1928) – Y.Piskunov (2363) B33
Krasnodar 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.a3?!

This is very tame. Two alternatives are:

7.Bd3 Bb4 8.0–0 0–0 9.f4 d5!? 10.fxe5 Ng4 11.Bf4?! (White should give preference to 11.exd5 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qxd5 13.Qe1 Nxe5 14.Be4 with a good game) 11...Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qb6+ 13.Kh1 Nf2+ 14.Rxf2 Qxf2 15.Bg3 Qc5 16.exd5 Qxd5 17.Qe2 Be6 18.h3 f5 19.exf6 Rxf6 and Black is at best marginally better, Kosasih-So, Tarakan 2008.

7.f4 Qc7 8.Qf3 Bb4 9.a3 Bxc3+ 10.Qxc3 exf4 11.Bd3 0–0 12.0–0 d5 13.Bxf4 Qb6+ 14.Kh1 dxe4 15.Bc4 Nd5 16.Qg3 Nxf4 17.Qxf4 Ba6 and Black has

equalized, B.Sahl-Hausrath, Fuegen 2006.

7...d5

While the text move is fully playable, Black can do better with both 7...Bc5 and 7...Be7.

8.exd5 cxd5 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Qe2 Bd6 11.Bg5

How should Black best continue, 11...d4 or 11...Qa5?

11...Qa5

On 11...d4 White responds with 12.Ne4 Be7 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15.Qf3 Rc8 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Qxf6 0–0 18.0–0–0! d3 19.Qxe5 Rxc2+ 20.Kb1 Rd8 21.Rd2! with better chances for White although not by much.

12.Bxf6! gxf6 13.0–0–0

While good, the text move isn't as good as 13.Bxd7+ Kxd7 14.b4! when 14...Bxb4 is met by 15.Qg4+ and White is winning.

13...Bxa3? 14.Bxd7+ Kf8
1–0

Game # 104

D.Buzzi – M.Lanzani (2420) B33
Italian Ch (Milan) 1985

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nf5 d5 7.exd5 Bxf5 8.dxc6 bxc6 9.Qf3

The main line is 9.Bd3, e.g., 9...Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Qxd3 11.cxd3 Bc5 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.fxe3 Nd5 14.Kd2 Ke7 with at best a tiny edge for White, Vachier Lagrave-Grischuk, Beijing 2014.

9...Qc8

Or 9...Qd7 10.Bg5 e4 11.Qd1 Qc7 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Qd4 Qe5 14.Qa4 Rc8 15.Ba6 Rc7 16.Rd1 with a small plus for White, Volokitin-Kuzubov, Moscow 2007.

10.Ba6 Qxa6 11.Qxf5 Bd6

What is White's best move?

Alternatively, 11...Nd7 12.Bg5 g6 13.Qh3 Bg7 (13...f5 14.0–0–0 Rb8 15.Bh6 Qb7 16.b3 Ba3+ 17.Kb1 Nf6 18.Rhe1 and Black is clearly in trouble, Bunzmann-Lomineishvili, Fuerth 2000) 14.Ne4 Qa5+ was Brajovic-Podlesnik, Subotica 1983, and now 15.c3 Qd5 16.f3 Nc5 17.Rd1 Nd3+ 18.Ke2 Rd8 19.g3 would have left White with a clear advantage.

12.Bh6!

Just like that, White is winning!

12...Nd5 13.Bxg7 Black resigned.
1–0

Game # 105
C.Permuy Lorenzo (2315) – A.Rodriguez (2350) B33
La Coruna 1996

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.c3

Why is 9...a6 a mistake?

9...a6?

This is a rather common mistake, 60 games in my database. The main line is 9...Nf5 10.a4 g6 11.Na3 Bg7 12.Bb5+ Bd7 13.Bxd7+ Qxd7 14.0–0 0–0 15.Nc4 Rac8 with chances to both sides, Gallagher-Ivanchuk, Saint Vincent 2005.

10.Qa4! Black resigned in this position and that does seem reasonable if you only consider 10...axb5, 10...Bd7 and 10...Qd7, all of which lose more or less on the spot. However, Black can do better than those with the insane-looking 10…Kd7 11.c4 (or 11.Na7+ Kc7 12.Nxc8 Rxc8 13.Qb3 with a clear

advantage for White) 11...Nf5 12.Bd3 Ke7 13.Nc3 f6 14.0–0 and White is once more clearly better.
1–0

Game # 106
T.Wedberg (2455) – P.Lyrberg (2400) B33
Stockholm 1995

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.c3 Ng6?!

This move is considered inaccurate; how can White exploit this move?

9...Nf5 is the better move and the main line.

9...a6 was discussed in the previous main game.

10.Qa4 Bd7 11.Qc4

The more precise continuation is 11.Qb4!, and now:

11...Qb8 12.Qc4 Kd8 13.Be3 Ne7 14.f4 Nc8 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.d6 f6 17.0–0–0 with a clear advantage for White, Gofshtein-Sturua, Daugavpils 1978.

11...Bf5 12.Qc4 Rc8 13.Qa4 Bd7 14.Qxa7 Nf4 15.Bxf4 exf4 16.Qd4 Qg5 17.h4 Qe5+ 18.Kd2 Qxd4+ 19.Nxd4 and White is clearly better in the

endgame, Kennaugh-Klima, Olomouc 2002.

11...Rc8

Or 11...Bxb5 12.Qxb5+ Qd7 13.Be3 Be7 14.g3 f5 15.f4 exf4 16.gxf4 a6 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.Bd3 with a small plus for White in the endgame, Lima-Mieles Palau, Rio de Janeiro 2003.

12.Qb4 Rc5?! 13.Be3 Rxd5? 14.Nxa7 e4? 15.Qxb7 Black resigned as 15.Qxb7 Be6 (Or 15...Ne7 16.Bb6) is met by 16.Bb6 Qd7 17.Qb8+ Ke7 18.Bd8+ Qxd8 19.Nc6+.
1–0

Game # 107
L.Psakhis (2570) – A.Vaisser (2540) B33
Paris Ch 1990

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.Bd3 Ne7 12.Nxe7 Qxe7 13.c4 f5 14.Qh5??

How should Black continue?

14.0–0 is the main line, but the text move looks natural enough to be played regularly.

14...d5 15.cxd5

Or 15.0–0 fxe4 16.Bc2 bxc4 17.Ba4+ Bd7 18.Bxd7+ Qxd7 19.f4 exf4 20.Rxf4 0–0 21.Rf5 Rad8 22.Rd1 c3 23.bxc3 Qa4 and Black is winning, Nayhebaver-Pacher, Banska Stiavnica 2016.

15...fxe4 Here White resigned in our main game since 16.Bxe4 is met by 16...Qb4+, winning a piece. In another game, White tried something else and also failed: 15...fxe4 16.Bc2 Qb4+ 17.Ke2 e3 18.Kf1 Bg4 and White resigned because the e-pawn will decide the day, 0–1, Blanco Acevedo-Huerga Leache, Linares 2015.
0–1

Game # 108
F.Kroeze (2436) – S.Kuipers (2316) B33
Dutch Team Ch (Netherlands) 2009

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.Bd3 Ne7 12.Nxe7 Qxe7 13.Qf3 f5

How should Black best meet 14.c3, 14.c4 and 14.exf5?

Black may, in fact, have a better move in 13...d5! e.g., 14.0–0 f5 15.Qg3 0–0 16.exd5 e4 17.Be2 as played in Garrido Fernandez-Munoz Pantoja, Barcelona 2008, and now 17...Qf6 would have been better for Black.

14.exf5?

The above mentioned moves should be met as follows:

14.c3 d5! 15.Qg3 Kf8 16.f3 b4 17.Nb1 Bf6 18.Qf2 dxe4 19.fxe4 f4 20.cxb4 Qxb4+ and Black is better, Brod-Kostic, Austria 2010.

14.c4 d5! 15.cxd5 fxe4 16.Bxe4 f5 17.Bxf5 0–0 18.d6 Qxd6 19.Qb3+ Kh8 20.Bxc8 Raxc8 with chances to both sides.

14...e4! White resigned as Black wins material, for example, 14...e4! 15.Qxe4 (or 15.Bxe4 d5) 15...Bxb2 16.0–0 Qxe4 17.Bxe4 Ra7 and Black wins a piece. **0–1**

Game # 109
K.Maliszewski (2350) – O.Matjushin B33
Kiev 1998

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.a4 h6 8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.Qxd5

White would do better to play 9.exd5 Ne7, and now:

10.c3 Nf5 11.Bd3 g6 12.0–0 Bg7 13.Qb3 0–0 14.Qb4 Re8 15.a5 a6 16.Na3 Ne7 17.Bc4 with some pressure for White, Spraggett-G.Hernandez, France 2002.

10.a5 a6 11.Nc3 Nf5 12.Bd3 g6 13.0–0 Bg7 14.Bd2 b5 15.axb6 Qxb6 16.Bb5+ Ke7 17.Bc6 with an advantage for White, Lombardy-Arnason, Reykjavik 1978.

9...Be7 10.c4

How should Black best continue?

After the normal 10.Be3 Be6 11.Qd2 a6 12.Nc3 Bg5 Black will have comfortably equalized.

10...a6! 11.Nc3 Nd4!

The point. Now White's queen is trapped.

12.Bd3 Rb8 13.b4 b6 There is no good way to meet the threat of ...Be6, therefore White resigned.
0–1

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