

## *Learn Chess the Right Way!*

### *Book 2: Winning Material*

by Susan Polgar

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168 pages

### **The Polgar Way to Better Chess!**

*Learn Chess the Right Way* is a five-volume chess puzzle book series aimed at the novice, beginner and intermediate level player, using the unique methods of the award-winning coach and former world champion Susan Polgar. It introduces the most important checkmate and material-winning tactics, as well as defensive techniques to the new chess player. Each of the five volumes will consist of over 500 puzzles.

**Volume 2** is all about “winning material” exercises. In each of the first six chapters a certain piece captures an enemy piece (in chapter 1 – The Queen, in chapter 2 – The Rook, and so on). In chapter 7, you will get no hint about which piece should be moved. In chapters 8-12, the most common and important chess tactics (such as decoy, fork, pin, discovery and skewer) are introduced. Finally, in chapter 13, in addition to the previously mentioned patterns, you will need to figure out which tactical pattern to use to win material, including concepts like “trapping a piece” or “intermediate move.”

Let Susan Polgar help you understand the most common and critical patterns and let her show you the way to becoming a better player.

# **Learn Chess the Right Way**

**Book 2**

**Winning Material**

**by  
Susan Polgar  
with Paul Truong**



2016  
Russell Enterprises, Inc.  
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Learn Chess the Right Way  
Book 2: Winning Material

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## Introduction

Ever since I was four years old, I remember the joy of solving chess puzzles. I wrote my first puzzle book when I was just 15, and have published a number of other best-sellers since, such as *A World Champion's Guide to Chess*, *Chess Tactics for Champions*, and *Breaking Through*, etc.

With over 40 years of experience as a world-class player and trainer, I have developed the most effective way to help young players and beginners – *Learn Chess the Right Way*. By understanding the most common and critical patterns, it will help you improve much quicker.

In this series of ***Learn Chess the Right Way***, I will show you the most effective way to learn and improve through pattern recognition.

**Volume 2** is all about “winning material” exercises. In each of the first six chapters a certain piece captures an enemy piece (in chapter 1 – The Queen, in chapter 2 – The Rook, and so on). In chapter 7, you will get no hint about which piece should be moved. In chapters 8-12, the most common and important chess tactics (such as decoy, fork, pin, discovery and skewer) are introduced. Finally, in chapter 13, in addition to the previously mentioned patterns, you will need to figure out which tactical pattern to use to win material, including concepts like “trapping a piece” or “intermediate move.”

In some examples it will be White to move, while in others you will have to try to find the winning move for Black. Also please note that under each diagram you will be able to record the amount of time it took you to solve each puzzle. As you go through and solve the puzzles again, your speed recognizing the winning material patterns should improve.

In chess, pattern recognition is a very important part of playing better chess. Therefore, my suggestion is to try to solve the puzzles multiple times, or until you feel that you can recognize the correct solutions within a minute per page (4 puzzles). Initially you may want to set up the pieces on the chess board as shown in the diagrams (make sure every piece is exactly as shown!), but by the second time around I would surely recommend to try to solve the puzzles just from the diagram.

Wishing you enjoyment as you embark on the road to “Learning Chess the Right Way!”

Susan Polgar  
July 2016

# Chapter 1

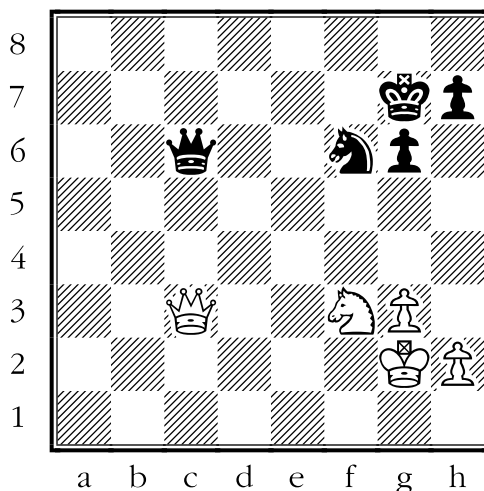
## Captures with the Queen

In this chapter, the main “hero” is the queen. The queen can move and capture diagonally or in a line direction. We shall see examples of how the queen can capture an opponent’s valuable pieces. But first, it is essential to understand the relative value of the different pieces:

Queen = 9
Rook = 5
Bishop or Knight = 3
Pawn = 1

The king can never be captured (removed from the board) and has no relative value.

When the king is attacked and cannot escape, it is checkmate, as we learned in volume 1 of this series. When the king is attacked and can escape, it means you gave a

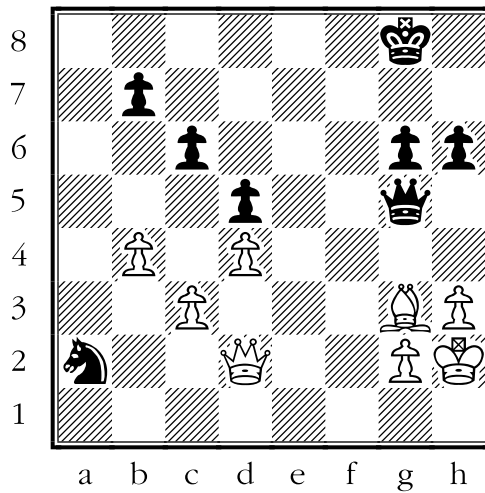


*White or Black to move*

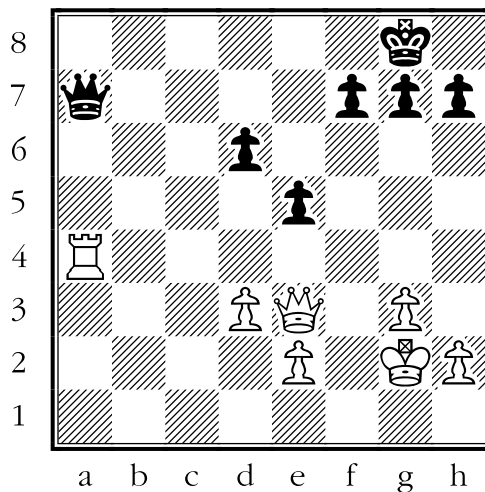
In the example above, if it is White’s turn, the correct capture is Qxc6 to simply win the queen. If it is Black’s turn, the answer would be similar with Qxc3.

In the next example, White can choose between capturing the black queen or knight.

## Learn Chess the Right Way



When thinking about your next move or capture, it is always essential to try to foresee your opponent's best next move, possibly a recapture. In the position above, capturing Black's queen on g5 would be a mistake, as it would miss out on a much better choice. After 1. Qxg5, Black would respond with 1...hxg5, which means that you just traded queens without any material gain. On the other hand, by playing 1.Qxa2, White wins material (a knight) without losing anything.



In the position above, Black can capture White's queen or rook. Here, even though the queen is the more valuable piece, it is the rook (on a4) that should be captured. Capturing 1...Qxe3 would be a blunder as it allows checkmate in one with 2.Ra8.

## Captures with the Queen

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In some of the exercises ahead, you may be able to win “only” a pawn, but typically that is better than winning nothing. You may also find some puzzles in this chapter where one side is in check. Remember, you do not necessarily need to move your king. It is possible for you to capture the piece that just checked you.

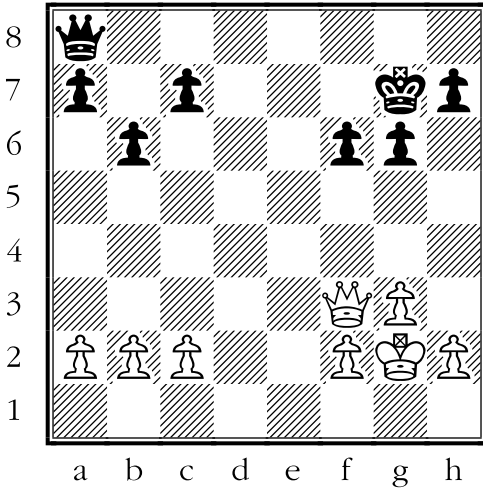
Have fun, and good luck solving the next 20 puzzles!



# Learn Chess the Right Way

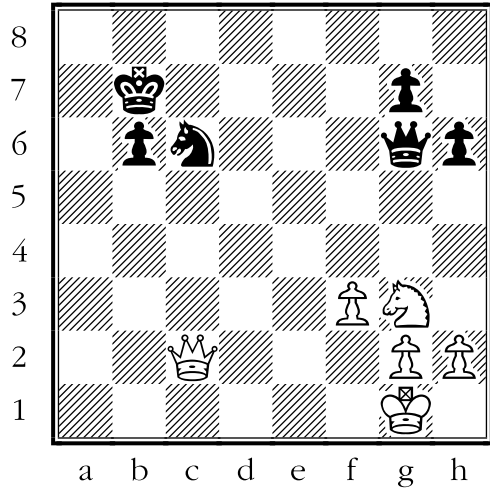
White to move

(1)



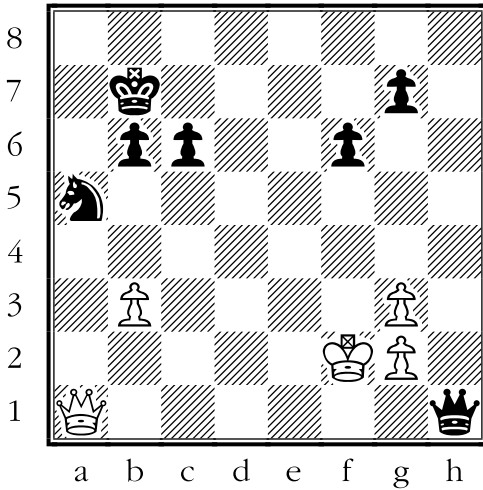
1. \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

(2)



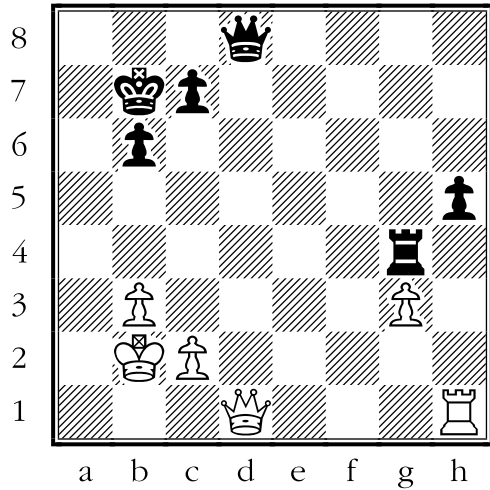
1. \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

(3)



1. \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

(4)

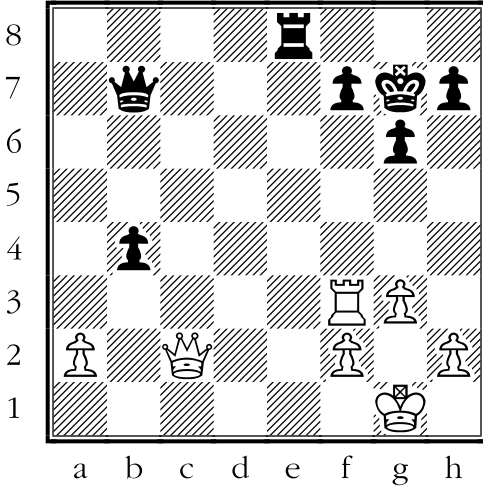


1. \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

# Captures with the Queen

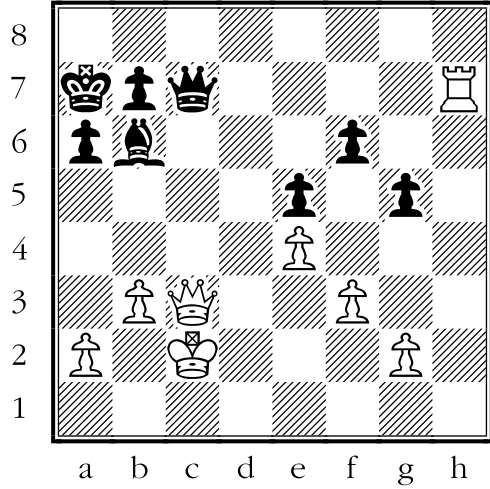
Black to move

(5)



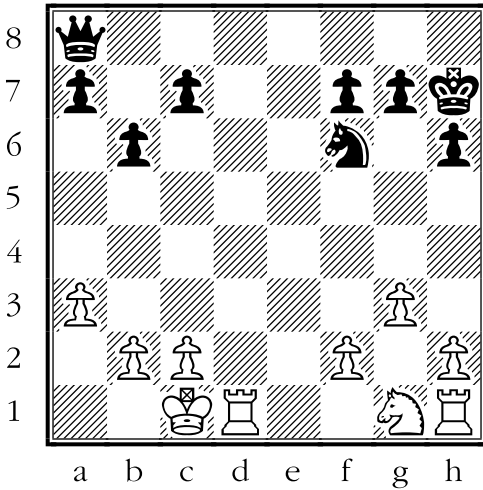
1. ... \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

(6)



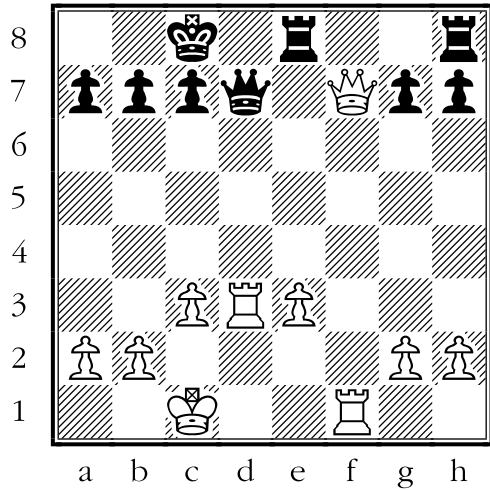
1. ... \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

(7)



1. ... \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

(8)



1. ... \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_