

**TP Chess
Puzzle Book
2016**

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TP Chess Puzzle Book 2016

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&
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Thinkers Publishing 2017



Key to Symbols used

!	a good move	±	White has a serious advantage
?	a weak move	⊖	Black has a serious advantage
!!	an excellent move	+—	White has a decisive advantage
??	a blunder	—+	Black has a decisive advantage
!?	an interesting move	→	with an attack
?!	a dubious move	↑	with an initiative
□	only move	↔	with counterplay
=	equality	Δ	with the idea of
∞	unclear position	⌢	better is
∞	with compensation for the sacrificed material	≤	worse is
±	White stands slightly better	N	novelty
⊖	Black stands slightly better	+	check
		#	mate

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Foreword by GM Dr Karsten Müller

Improve your Chess with the TP 2016 Puzzle Book!

You have already played chess for some time and know the basic tactical motives like knight forks, smothered, back rank mate and reached about 1800-2400 Elo rating but you do not know how to improve further? Then I have an idea in store for you. In many sports the training process should be similar to the competition and chess is no exception. So you should train 'the decision making' in a practical way with not too many additional information like "White to move and win by a bishop skewer". Solving studies is an option to foster your creativity, but sometimes they are a bit artificial, very deep and difficult. They often do not reflect to the situation you reach over the board in your games.

I have always believed in the method of solving exercises and asked all my students to do so on a regular basis. Of course from time to time fresh material is needed and that is why this workbook comes in very handy. I have known both authors for a long time. I can tell you that both are hard workers and you can expect well chosen thoroughly checked material sorted in a suitable way so that all chapters also catch the spirit of the different themes. Furthermore the authors have included false tracks and give the refutations contrary to many other test books which just give the correct solutions and nothing extra. In modern times it is relatively easy to generate many exercises by the computer. I think it is very important that many creative ideas are pictured in this book like the chapter on the Bxh6 sacrifice, which in some cases it is correct and in others not, and the chapter on the Berlin Wall, in which the different black structures are cracked in typical ways.

If you really want to have no additional information and just want to start solving, then for example the chapter on the Olympiad is a serious option. If you want to train your calculation and visualisation of variations, then the pawn endgame chapter is a good place to start. A nice additional feature is that some of the highlights of 2016 were brought to life again and you will meet old friends, resp. positions and hopefully also make many new ones along the road as most of the material is brand new.

And last but not least, there are many beautiful points hidden in the exercises, leaving the work being also fun, which is very important in my opinion.

GM Dr Karsten Müller, Hamburg February 2017

Introduction

Dear reader,

The book you hold in your hands is the result of a collaboration between two authors. Both of us like to solve puzzles, use puzzles in our training methods and like existing books as f.i. 'the Grandmaster Preparation series' from Jacob Aagaard or other puzzle collections.

Of course we didn't reinvent the wheel but nevertheless we wanted to do something fresh and „new“. We provide a bit of a retrospective of 2016 (e.g. Greatest Moments), some are educational (e.g. Pawn endgames), sometimes we kept it a little funny (e.g. Blunders), or even creative (e.g. Bxh6!?) and most important, it serves as a puzzle or working book to train your ability to calculate. So we had the idea to write a puzzle book which contains only positions from a specific year, representing the most important tournaments and moments. Additionally it should cover important developments, outstanding performances and special motives.

The book consists of 13 chapters with a bit more than 300 puzzles in total. All puzzles are taken from real games of 2016 with one exception. The two chapters dedicated to players feature examples from their whole career. Every chapter has its own introduction and sometimes a typical position as an appetizer. The level of difficulty increases within the chapters but not strictly from chapter to chapter. We start with, ladies first, a chapter dedicated to Anna Muzychuk and finish the book with the greatest moments of 2016 although there are other chapters with far more difficult puzzles.

The book is aimed at ambitious players and we assume that the reader has an advanced chess education, knowing all the basic tactical motives. Also we assume that he is able to calculate longer variations and is trained to do so for more than 10 minutes if necessary. Wait, do I really need 10 minutes for every puzzle? No, relax. All chapters start with easy puzzles but the level of difficulty increases and depending on your skills you will need sometimes more than 20 minutes, sometimes you probably won't even find the solution. We included some brain crushers from whom we think that even grandmasters will have problems solving.

But that should not pose a problem. In our opinion the journey is the reward. Sometimes looking at a position for a long time and then finding something new you couldn't spot in the beginning, might be even more beneficial. The harder you try the more you will benefit. We experienced from working with the book at home, it takes a lot of discipline, but we are certain that with a regular practice your calculation skills will improve a lot. Another good method is to train with a partner of similar strength or in a group. We used examples from the book in our own training sessions and think it will be very useful for chess coaches who are in need of new material for their pupils.

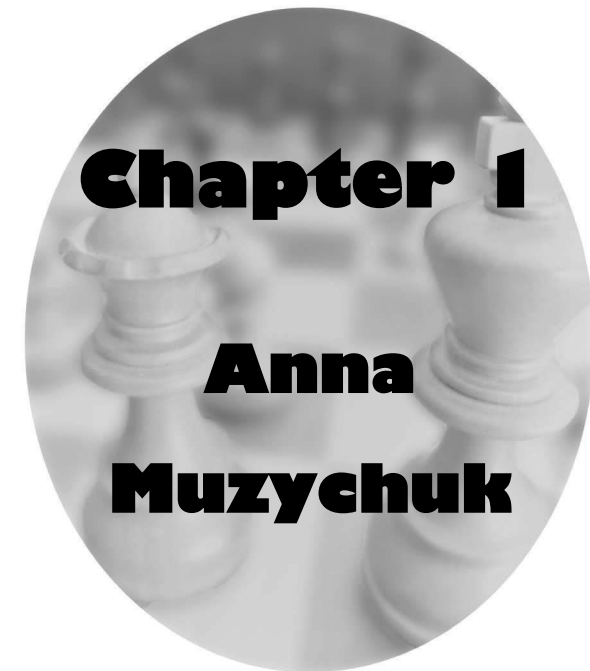
If not stated otherwise directly at the diagram or in the chapter introduction, every puzzle has a single best move as the solution. This move usually leads anywhere between a small and a big advantage and is not necessarily clearly winning. There are also a few puzzles that are marked with (=). In these puzzles your task is to find the only continuation that holds the balance. You will also find some puzzles marked with a (*). We think these puzzles are very deep and rather complicated. If you want, you can test your calculating abilities and spend a lot of time on these very rich positions or you can see them as practical puzzles, where the first move is the most important one to find, but you can't be sure about the consequences completely.

Our idea how to use the book optimally is the following. Take your time for every puzzle. Set up a chessboard, put up the position and then solve it without too much time pressure. Writing down your ideas is probably a good idea, especially if you plan to solve multiple puzzles in a row.

In a lot of these positions there are many interesting ideas to discover, so try not to rush through the puzzles. The book is roughly planned to contain one year of calculation training (There will be a new puzzle book at the start of next year!). This is of course not the only way to use the book and we are sure you'll enjoy reading it regardless of your training methods.

We would like to thank Daniel Vanheirzeele and Romain Edouard from *Thinkers Publishing* for their great cooperation and communication throughout the project and Karsten Müller for his foreword, critique and invaluable support. We'd also like to thank our training groups who tested most of the puzzles in this book.

Georgios Souleidis and Dirk Sebastian
Hamburg, 1st of March 2017



Anna Muzychuk is one of the strongest female players in the world. When we started to write our book, she was ranked No. 3 behind the two Chinese players Hou Yifan and Ju Wenjun. In the history of chess she belongs to the four women who ever crossed the 2600 Elo rating mark. Together with her nearly two years younger sister Maria, who won the Women's World Championship in 2015, she dedicated her whole life to chess.

In her early years she won numerous titles, the gold medal at the Junior World Championship for Girls 2010 being her greatest achievement. After competing ten years for Slovenia she came back in 2014 to play for her native country Ukraine. She defended the first board at the last two Olympiads and contributed significantly enabling the female national team winning the bronze in Tromsø and Baku. In the capital of Azerbaijan she achieved the highest rating performance on board 1 in the women's section.

But her biggest success so far and the main reason we dedicated this chapter to her, came at the end of 2016 in Doha. With a stellar performance she won two gold medals within five days. First at the Women's World Rapid Championship and then at the Women's World Blitz Championship, defending her title from 2014. To that effect it comes to no surprise that Anna is ranked No. 1 in the World in rapid and blitz. Around the same time we finished our work for this book she also won the silver medal at the Women's World Championship in Teheran 2017, so our decision to dedicate her this chapter was fully justified.

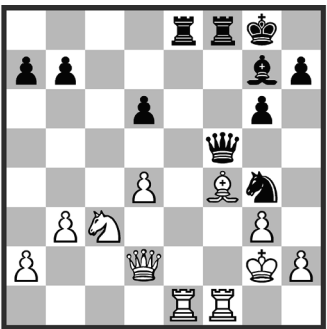


Anna Muzychuk

We have collected 20 puzzles from 2002 until 2016 showing some of the most beautiful moments of her career. The last puzzle is taken from her probably best game of 2016!

1

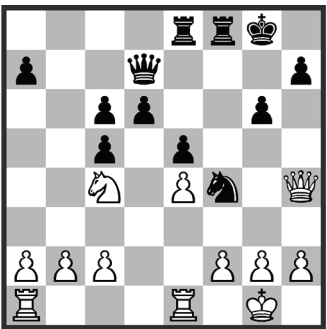
Gunina, V. – Muzychuk, A.



24...? –+

3

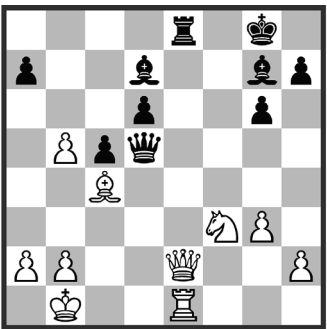
Edouard, R. – Muzychuk, A.



21...? –+

2

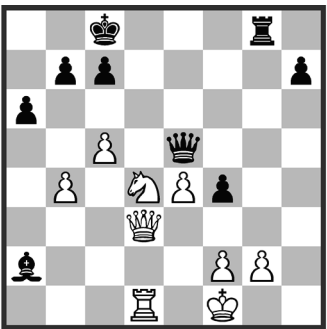
Rautanen, S. – Muzychuk, A.



28...? –+

4

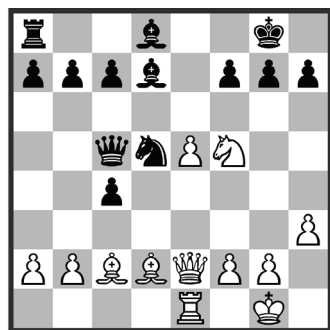
Muzychuk, A. – Brunello, S.



29.? –+

5

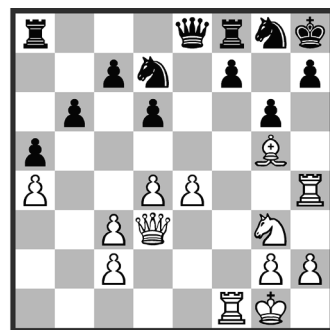
Muzychuk, A. – Levushkina, E.



□ 26.? +-

6

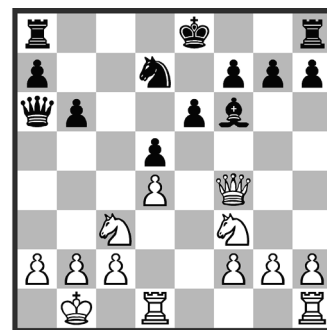
Muzychuk, A. – Tsirulnik, M.



□ 20.? +-

9

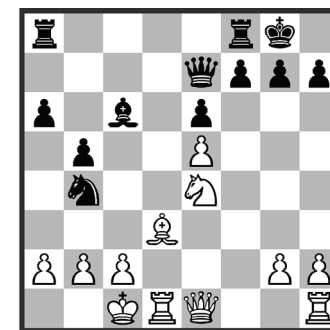
Muzychuk, A. – Gunina, V.



□ 13.? +-

10

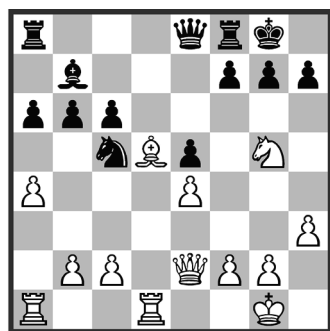
Muzychuk, A. – Kosteniuk, A.



□ 17.? +-

7

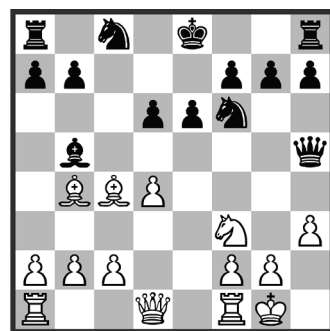
Muzychuk, A. – Skripchenko, A.



□ 16.? +-

8

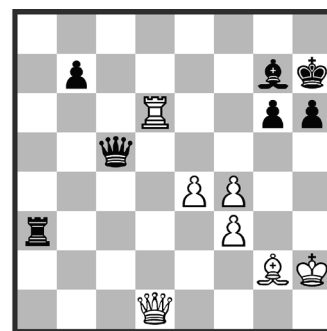
Muzychuk, A. – Mikadze, M.



□ 14.? +-

11

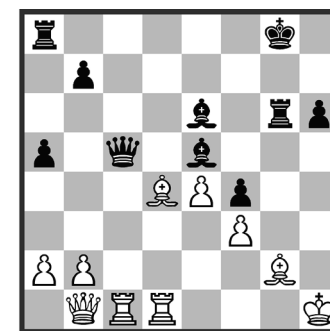
Polgar, Z. – Muzychuk, A.



■ 38...? -+

12

Degtiarev, E. – Muzychuk, A.



■ 32...? -+