



COLUMNISTS

Chess Mazes

Bruce Alberston



Chess Mazes

In the fall of 2004, popular chess author Bruce Alberston released a book called *Chess Mazes*, designed to help students to develop their visualization and planning skills. *Chess Mazes* was an instant success and **ChessCafe** was delighted when Bruce agreed to offer a new *Chess Maze* puzzle each week.

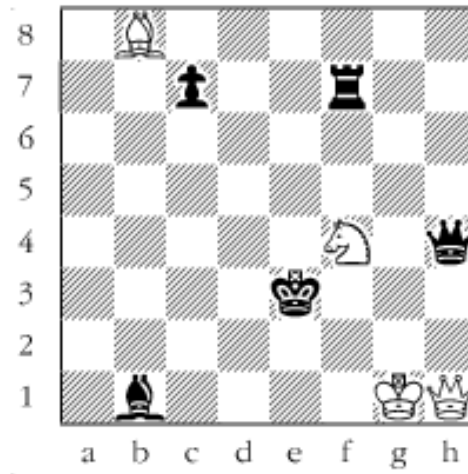
The concept is simple enough: The object is to place the black King in check in the shortest number of moves. The one restriction is that the white piece may not put itself *en prise*, i.e., on a square where it can be captured.

For those who may be interested in a more detailed introduction and overview to these puzzles, we invite you to take a look at the introduction from Bruce's book. Click [here](#) to read more, otherwise, we hope you enjoy this week's *Chess Maze* puzzle...

A Queen Maze

White to move only his queen and give only mate (no checks). Black can't move but he can take the queen if given an opportunity to do so. Don't give no opportunities, and mate him fast.

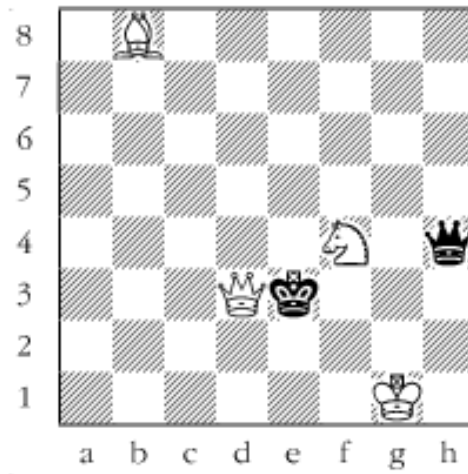
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Scroll down for the solution

With 1. Qxh4 White can take all the pieces but extends the solution. Simplest to leave the black queen where she is. 1. Qd5 2. Qxf7 3. Qxc7 4. Qb7 5. Qxb1 6. Qd3#

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