

# A Game

*"You . . . can't do this to me, you . . . machine! You blasted bucket of wire and tubes! You can't beat me,*

"Your move, Aldo."  
"Knight to your king's third."  
"Excellent move! The very thing I would have done had I been in your



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position. Don't think I don't see what you are doing. I shouldn't be telling you, should I?"

"It really makes no difference."

"Oh, don't be so cocky. I have a few surprises for you yet. Let me see, now. Un huh! Pretty even situation, I'd say. Let's see if you can afford this! My queen to your castle's fourth, and you're in check! Now I've got the old pressure on you. Think about that for a while!"

"Knight's pawn to my knight's third."

"Huh! That was quick.

I guess I won't exchange my queen for one of your paltry pawns."

Doctor Pritchard slowly scratched his glossy head while contemplating the next move in his game with Aldous. When he had finished scratching, he carefully ran his hand over his head, as though he were smoothing his nonexistent hair. After all, the Doctor was a very vain man.

Doctor Pritchard's vanity had grown as a result of his notoriety over a period of years. A doctorate in electronic engineer-

ing had brought him to the university many years before, while he was very young. He was the youngest man ever to head the engineering department, and this made him the envy of every other professor in the school. A wealth of time to experiment and the freedom to use all of the vast facilities had led him to many outstanding discoveries and inventions. Notoriety, notoriety; how he loved it! The more the papers and magazines clamored for stories about him and his work, the more he strived for new heights, and the circle went on and on.

"Queen to my bishop's third," he said as he suddenly broke from his thoughts and snatched the piece to its new position.

Almost before his hand left the piece, Aldo replied, "Bishop to your castle's fourth."

Doctor Pritchard's mouth fell open, and he quickly went back into meditation. Mumbling to himself and fidgeting with the buttons on his vest, he slowly rose from his chair and viewed the board from each side. He hoped that the different vantage point would yield new avenues of conquest to him. There had to be an opening some place! Aldo wasn't infallible, but he certainly was proving to be tough. With a sigh, he carefully sat again in the chair and

leaned over the board.

Doctor Pritchard's eyes strained on the pieces before him with such intensity that perspiration began to bead on his shiny forehead. It seemed to him that the room was getting warmer every minute, and the hot sun shining on the board seemed to make his opponent's white pieces loom larger than his own black chessmen. Even though neither of them had lost a piece thus far, the white pieces appeared to outnumber the black, and his path was covered in every direction he looked. Doctor Pritchard was not accustomed to being on the defensive, and Aldo, undoubtedly had him in a very precarious position.

After many moments of surveying the board, it appeared to Doctor Pritchard that the only thing he could do at this point was to stall Aldo by blocking with his pawns and wait for an opening.

"Knight's pawn to the third, to block your bishop," he sputtered out as he collapsed into his chair, to wait Aldo's next move. Before his back had touched the back of the chair Aldo had called out his next move.

"Queen to my castle's fourth."

This quick response unnerved Doctor Pritchard even more than the last move, but his move this time was easy to see. He would have to run Aldo's queen out with a pawn. He had a fine defense set up with his pawns placed very nicely in three "v" formations, one protecting the next. He did not hesitate this time as he quickly moved his man.

"Knight's pawn to the fourth," A slight tone of confidence returned to his voice and his eyes began to lighten. He was on the offensive once more!

There was little delay as Aldo came forth with his next move. "My knight captures your pawn."

"That was your first bad mistake," replied Doctor Pritchard as he calmly picked up Aldo's knight and placed the pawn from an adjoining square into



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