

12. ...	Nxc2	The GM commentators were blown away by this move. In fact, it appears ten times in the Lichess master games database, so I thought it might have been preparation by Alireza.
13. Kxc2	Qc6	Attacking the e-pawn and threatening ...Qa4 while the knight on c3 is pinned. Black has a massive attack for the piece.
14. Nd2	Qa4+	Long think, wrong think: Alireza spent 42 minutes on this move! This is surprising because there is only one sequence (13...Qc6 14. Nd2 d5 15. exd5 Nxd5) that justifies the piece sacrifice, and all ten games in the Lichess database followed it. This indicates Alireza may have found ...Nxc2 over-the-board but perhaps underestimated 14. Nd2. Either way, the speculative sacrifice without concrete compensation takes guts to play! Unfortunately, 14...Qa4+ allows White to demonstrate some incredible bravery of his own:
15. Kd3	...	A spectacular find by Vidit and no doubt missed by Alireza. Despite the absolutely horrid appearance of this move, it's the best defense. The tempo on Black's queen gives the white king time to seek refuge on e1. Black's attack will fizzle, leaving him with a mere pawn for the knight.
15. ...	Rxc3+	Black has to act fast, and this is the best try, but it's not enough.  White is winning. Alireza played on, and both players reached time control with less than a minute on their clock. Even with 45 extra minutes after move 40, the endgame was hopelessly lost for Black, and Alireza resigned just two moves later.
16. bxc3	d5	
17. Ke2	...	
12. ...	Nxc2	This was necessary.  Objectively, the position is roughly equal, but White's task to defend precisely and hang on to the extra material seems more difficult to play.
13. Kxc2	Qc6	
14. Nd2	d5	
15. exd5	Nxd5	
12. ...	Nc6	The weakness of this move makes the decision to sac the knight easier. Black has no strong alternative. Here, White can play Nd5 and launch a kingside pawn storm. Black has counterplay but White's attack is faster with Black's king stuck in the center. For example,
13. Nd5	Bxd5	
14. exd5	Na5	
15. Nxa5	Qxa5	
16. g4	Qa4	
17. Bd3	e4	
18. Qf5		