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This combination often wins a queen. It features a rook decoy sacrifice on the c8-square, followed up by a knight fork on the e7-square. The fork of the black king and queen exploits a common formation of pieces, as, following kingside castling, the black king is naturally located on the g8-square.

The ingredients to watch out for are the following:
1) a white knight on d5 and a white rook on the open c-file;
2) the black queen on d8 and the black king on g8;
3) Black’s e7-square is undefended (except by the black queen).

**Typical Pattern for the ♖xc8 and ♕xe7+ Decoy**

1a) White moves
First comes the rook sacrifice to decoy the black queen to the c8-square: 1 ♖xc8 ♙xc8 (1b).

1b) White moves
The follow-up 2 ♕xe7+ is a knight fork of the black king and queen. After 2...♕h8 3 ♕xc8 White wins.
2) White moves
It is not essential to capture anything on c8. 1 Êc8 Ïxc8 2 Ïxe7+ wins the black queen for rook and knight.

3) Black moves
The knight can start on a different square (in this case g3 rather than d4), but the principle is the same: 1...Îc1! 2 Êxc1 Ïe2+ winning.

4a) Black moves
A classy example. Ignoring the fact that his rook is attacked by a pawn, Black plays 1...Îxd4! 2 cxd5 Îxc1 3 Îxc1 (4b).

4b) Black moves
The sacrificed material is neatly regained with 3...Ëxc1+ 4 Êxc1 Ïe2+ 5 Êf1 Ïxc1. Black emerges a pawn up in the endgame.