

**GM Branko Tadić**

# **ENDGAME PUZZLES**



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Key to symbols .....	4
Introduction .....	5
Classification .....	6
Endgame Puzzles - <b>January 2021</b> .....	7
<b>Solutions</b> - January 2021 .....	13
Endgame Puzzles - <b>February 2021</b> .....	27
<b>Solutions</b> - February 2021 .....	33
Endgame Puzzles - <b>March 2021</b> .....	47
<b>Solutions</b> - March 2021 .....	55
Endgame Puzzles - <b>April 2021</b> .....	77
<b>Solutions</b> - April 2021 .....	84
Endgame Puzzles - <b>May 2021</b> .....	99
<b>Solutions</b> - May 2021 .....	105
Endgame Puzzles - <b>June 2021</b> .....	119
<b>Solutions</b> - June 2021 .....	128
Endgame Puzzles - <b>July 2021</b> .....	153
<b>Solutions</b> - July 2021 .....	165
Endgame Puzzles - <b>August 2021</b> .....	197
<b>Solutions</b> - August 2021 .....	204
Endgame Puzzles - <b>September 2021</b> .....	221
<b>Solutions</b> - September 2021 .....	228
Endgame Puzzles - <b>October 2021</b> .....	245
<b>Solutions</b> - October 2021 .....	253
Endgame Puzzles - <b>November 2021</b> .....	277
<b>Solutions</b> - November 2021 .....	285
Endgame Puzzles - <b>December 2021</b> .....	309
<b>Solutions</b> - December 2021 .....	318

# KEY TO SYMBOLS

±	White stands slightly better
∓	Black stands slightly better
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+—	White has a decisive advantage
—+	Black has a decisive advantage
=	equality
∞	unclear
∞	with compensation
→	with an attack
↑	with initiative
↔	with counterplay
⊙	zugzwang
#	mate
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
△	with the idea
□	only move
∩	better is
⊕	time
N	a novelty
(ch)	championship

# INTRODUCTION

## **Welcome to the overview of the most interesting endings in 2021!**

This book focuses on endgames. The major difference between middlegame and endgame calculation training is the limited material. It takes quite an art to develop the ability to calculate well in positions with little material on the board. Solving exercises is one step on the road to endgame mastery.

Solving exercises in this book will help the reader improve on his endgame knowledge understanding as well. Many a time, a well-trained calculation in the finals will help us lead a position to victory, or save one. Also, in this book we will find and recall some of the famous positions from the old books that were found in tournament practice. There is a lot to learn from studying each solution.

394 examples from practical games played in 2021 have been selected. Most of the examples are from grandmaster practice, which gives special weight to each example.

Examples are determined by heaviness with the number of stars (from 1 to 5).

Do not be surprised and depressed if some examples with less stars are more difficult for you. Finishes are a part of the game where you constantly learn and revise your knowledge.

***GM Branko Tadić***

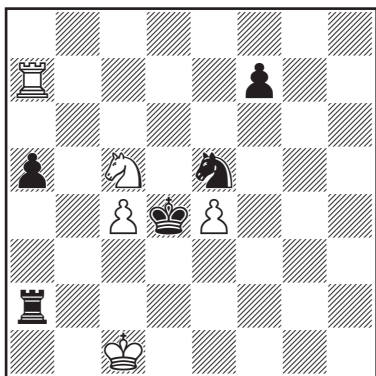
# **ENDGAME PUZZLES**

**March 2021**

44.

A. FIROUZJA 2759 –  
W. SO 2770

Carlsen Inv. - chess24.com (blitz) 2021

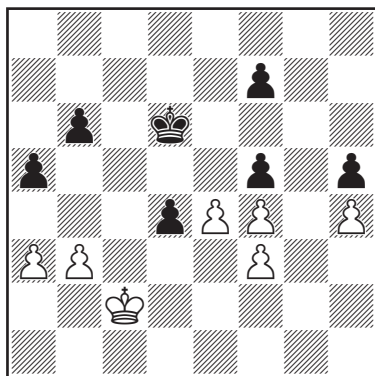


1. ? = ★★★

45.

G. OPARIN 2652 –  
E. HANSEN 2606

Titled Arena - lichess.org 2021

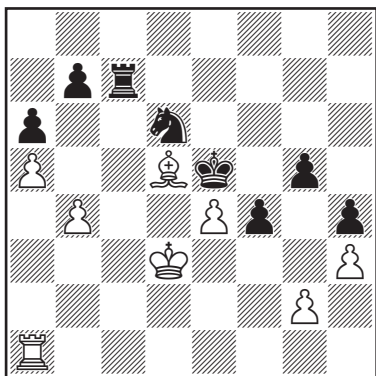


1... ? -+ ★★★

46.

VISAKH N R 2516 –  
D. GHOSH 2541

Vidit Chess Tour 2021

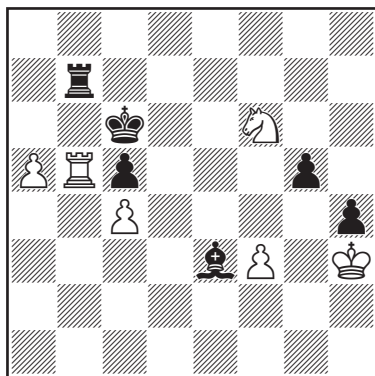


1... ? -+ ★

47.

S. KARJAKIN 2709 –  
J. VAN FOREEST 2543

Online (blitz) 2021

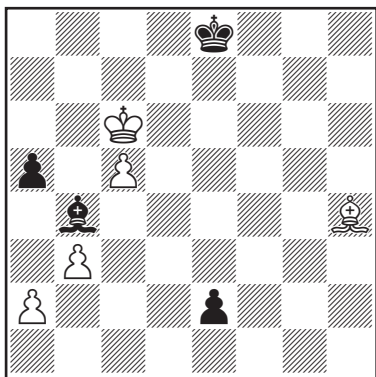


1. ? +- ★★

48.

I. NEPOMNIACHTCHI 2778 –  
H. NAKAMURA 2829

Carlsen Inv. - chess24.com (blitz) 2021

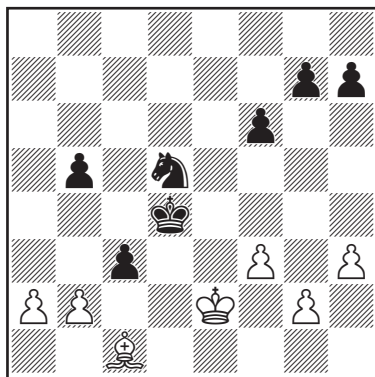


1. ? +- ★★★★★

49.

Y. GRUENFELD 2412 –  
T. NABATY 2638

Israel 2021

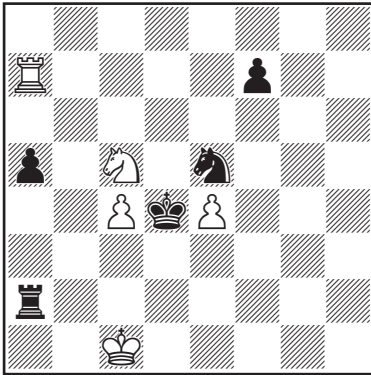


1... ? -+ ★★

44.

A. FIROUZJA 2759 –  
W. SO 2770

Carlsen Inv. - chess24.com (blitz) 2021

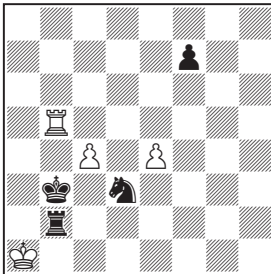


1. ? = ★★★

The only way to keep White in the game.

49. ♖a5!

Wrong is 49. ♘b3? ♔c3 50. ♖a5 ♘d3 51. ♔b1 (51. ♔d1 ♖b2 52. ♖a3 ♖b3—+) 51... ♖b2 52. ♔a1 ♔b3 53. ♖b5



53... ♔c4 54. ♖b2 ♘b2 55. ♔b2 ♔d4—+;

Suddenly, it is mate after 49. ♘d7? ♘d3 50. ♔b1 ♖b2 51. ♔a1 ♔c3 52. ♖a5 ♘b4 53. ♖a3 ♔c2 54. ♘c5 ♖b1#;

Also is bad 49. ♖c7? ♔c3 50. ♔b1 ♖a3 51. ♖e7 ♘c4 52. ♖d7 ♘d2 53. ♖d2 ♔d2—+;

Not so bad, but faraway from the draw 49. ♔b1 ♖f2±

49... ♘d3

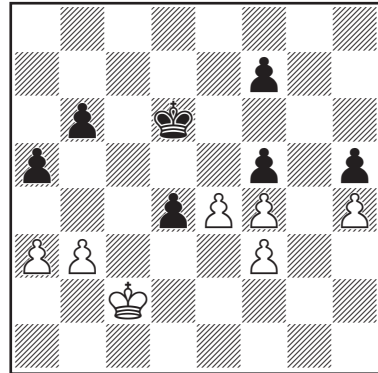
49... ♖f2 can be met with 50. ♘d7 ♘d3 51. ♔b1= (51. ♔d1? runs into the typical mate 51... ♔e3—+)

50. ♔d1 ♘f2 51. ♔e1 ♘d3 52. ♔d1=

45.

G. OPARIN 2652 –  
E. HANSEN 2606

Titled Arena - lichess.org 2021

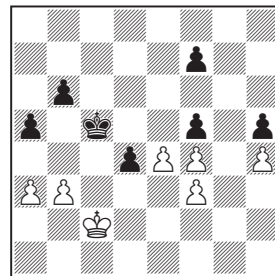


1... ? —+ ★★★★★

If the Black wants to win this position, his king must enter the queenside. How? Using opposition rule, extra tempos and some exact calculations.

44... ♔c6!

44... ♔c5 (G. Oparin – E. Hansen)

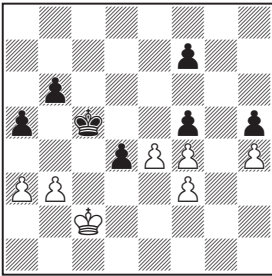


45. ♔d3! b5 46. ♔c2 b4 47. a4 ♔c6 48. ♔d3 ♔c5=

45. ♔d2



45. ♔d3 ♕c5 46. ♔c2 (46. a4 b5 Transposes to the main line.)



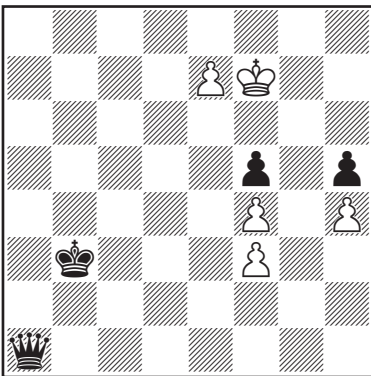
46... a4! 47. ba4 ♕c4 48. ♔d2 ♕b3  
49. ♔d3 ♕a4 50. ♔d4 ♕a3—+;  
45. ef5 ♕c5—+

45... ♕b5 46. ♔d3 ♕c5

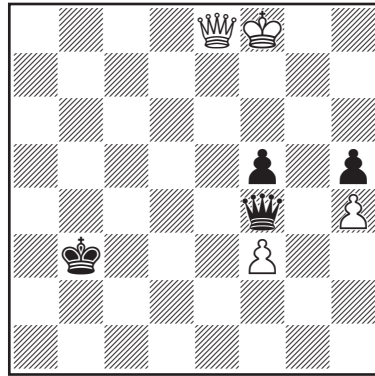
Through the use of so-called "triangulation", Black gave move to the White. Unfortunately for him, it is not possible to refuse such an offer.

47. a4 b5 48. ab5 ♕b5 49. ♔d4 ♕b4 50. ♕e5 ♕b3 51. ♕f6 a4 52. ♕f7 a3 53. e5 a2 54. e6 a1♚ 55. e7

Because of the pawn constellation, there's no easy victory. The game goes further to the endgame with queens on board.



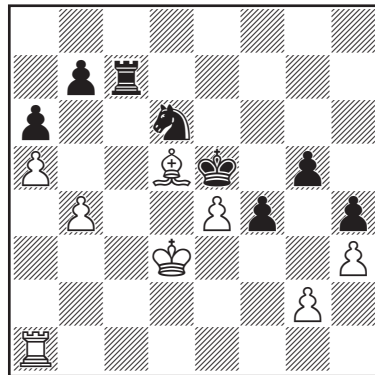
55... ♚a7 56. ♕f8 ♚c5 57. ♕f7 ♚c7 58. ♕f8 ♚f4 59. e8♚



59... ♚f3—+ Good to remember. Ideal placement of the queen and the Black transfers his king on the kingside. Black is winning.

46.

VISAKH N R 2516 –  
D. GHOSH 2541  
Vidit Chess Tour 2021



1...? —+ ★

Black is obviously much better here. As usual, some small tactics for material gain.

41... ♖e4! 42. ♙e4 ♖d7 43. ♕e2

43. ♕c3 ♕e4 44. ♖e1 ♔d5 45. ♖e8 ♖f7 46. ♖g8 ♖f5 47. ♖g7 f3 48. gf3 ♖f3 49. ♕c2 ♕c4 50. ♖g5 ♕b4—+

43... ♕e4—+