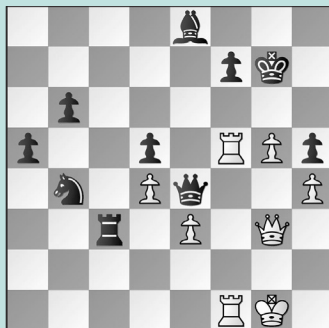


# BETTER TO BE LUCKY AND GOOD

## WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ NOVEMBER 22, 2023

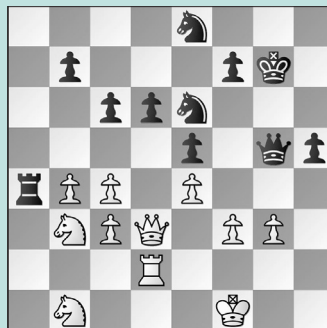
BY JJ LANG

### PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

### PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

### PUZZLE 3.



WHITE TO MOVE

### PUZZLE 4.



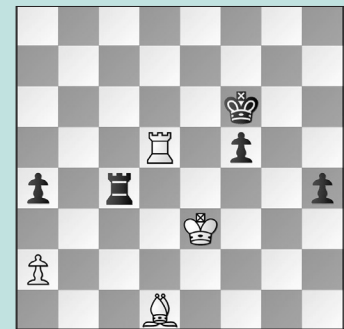
WHITE TO MOVE

### PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

### PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

## SOLUTIONS

**PUZZLE 1.** 49. Re5! The e8-bishop falls. Play continued 49. ... Rxe3 50. Qxe3 Qxe3+ 51. Rxe3 Bb5 52. Rf6 and the passers are neutralized. (Sevian – Caruana, St Louis, 2023) **PUZZLE 2.** 36. ... Qxg3! You didn't rule this out because of 37. Rg2 did you? In the game, White played 37. Qe3 and after 37. ... Nf4 38. Qg1 h4 39. Rh2 Kf6 was better. 37. ... Qxg2+! The point! 38. Kxg2 Nf4+ winning. (Firouzja – Caruana, St Louis, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 3.** Is there time to trade on c7? 28. Bxb5! No! Now, the position is equal, but White was losing after 28. Rxc7?? Bxf1! 29. Rc6 Bb5! The point is the rook gets trapped on d6! 30. Rxd6 Ne4! 31. a4 Bxa4 32. Ra1 Nxd6 33. Rxa4 a5 win-

ning. (Xiong – Caruana, St Louis, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 4.** White had sacrificed a knight on g5 for the pin. Now what? 14. Rf1! The only move that keeps an edge. Instead, 14. Rf1?! saw White's initiative dwindle with 14. ... Rh8 15. 0-0-0 when 15. ... Nb8?! was played (better was 15. ... Bxc4 when 16. Nxc4 Qe7! 17. Ne3 Qe6! 18. Nf5+ Kf8 19. Qg3 Nh5 holds). Then, 16. Qe2 Qe8 17. f4 kept attacking chances. 14. ... Nb8 Black tries to defend the f6-knight. 15. Ng3 Nbd7 16. Nh5+ Kg6 17. Bh4! and White keeps pressure. (Caruana – Firouzja, St Louis, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 24. ... Rh7! Another interesting idea is 24. ... Bxd4!?. Instead, 24. ... Nxd2? was played, and things went from bad to worse after 25. Rf6 Rh7?? (necessary was 25.

... Nb3+ 26. Kd1 Kh7!! [or 26. ... Rxh6 27. Qxh6 Bd7 28. Rxf7 Qxf7 29. Rxc6 Qxc6 30. Qxc6 equalizing] 27. Bf8+ Kg8 28. Bh6 with a draw) 26. Rgxc6+ winning. 25. Nf3 Ne3! and Black is winning here or after 25. ... Bxd4 26. cxd4 Ne3. 26. Rf2 Bb3 and if White tries to "power through" with 27. Nh4 then 27. ... Bxd4! 28. Nxc6 Or 28. cxd4 Qc6+ winning. 28. ... Bg7!! winning. (Caruana – Firouzja, St Louis, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 6.** 66. Rd4! Slowing down ... h4-h3 was essential. In the game, 66. Rd8 was too slow after 66. ... h3 67. Rh8 Rc3+ 68. Kf4 Ra3 and Black should draw. 66. ... Rc3+ 67. Kf4 h3 68. Rd2 Or 68. Rd6+ Kf7 69. Rd2. 68. ... Rc4+ 69. Kg3 Rc3+ 70. Bf3 Ke5 71. Rf2! Kd4 72. Kxh3 winning. (Robson – Caruana, St Louis, 2023, analysis)