

# Mini-Lessons from Short Games of the 21st Century

By IM Nikolay Minev

## Blunders With Two Open Files in the Center

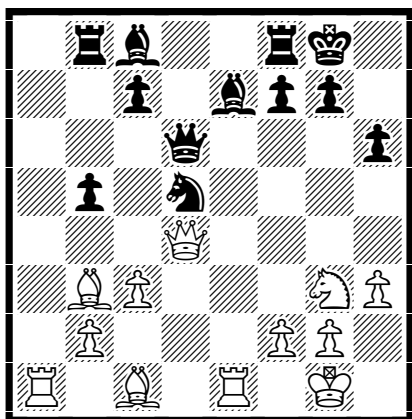
A blunder is a mistake that immediately decides the game. Of course, blunders can happen anytime, but the tournament practice shows convincingly that blunders happen most often in positions with two open files in the center. The reason: the pieces of both sides are playing with full force, and any mistake is punished decisively. This small collection of exciting games is a good demonstration of this typical pattern.

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**C84 V. Aveskulov – S. Opryshko**  
Ukraine (ch team) Alushta 2010

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1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a4 Rb8 9.c3 0-0  
10.Nbd2 d5 11.h3 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nd5 13.Re1 h6 14.Ng3 Qd6 15.axb5 axb5 16.d4 exd4  
17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4



**18...Nb6??**

Allows the surprising blow that follows on the next move. Correct is 18...Nf6.

**19.Rxe7!! 1-0**

Because of 19...Qxe7 20.Nh5, with inevitable mate.

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**C91 W. Unzicker – J. Smejkal**

Germany (Bundesliga) 2000

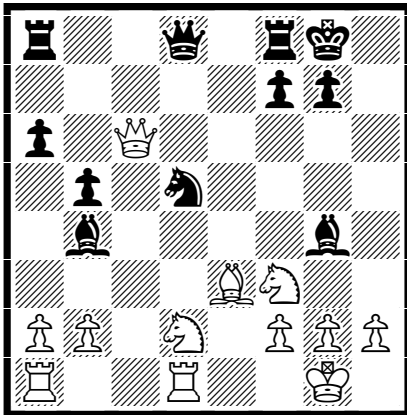
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**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.d4 Bg4 10.Be3 exd4 11.cxd4 Na5 12.Bc2 c5 13.Nbd2 cxd4 14.Bxd4 Nc6 15.Be3 d5 16.exd5 Nxd5! 17.Bxh7+?**

Tempting, but a wrong combination. Correct is 17.Ne4 Nxe3 18.Rxe3.

**17...Kxh7 18.Qc2+ Kg8 19.Qxc6 Bb4 20.Red1??**

The blunder! However, after 20.Bg5 f6 21.Re4 Rc8 22.Qxa6 Qd7 Black stands better (Ivanovic-Smejkal, Zagreb 1985).



**20...Nxe3 21.fxe3 Bxd2! 0-1**

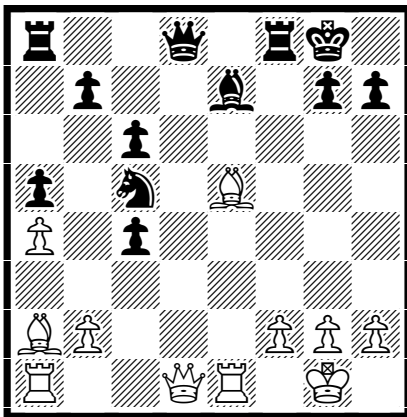
After 22.Rxd2 Bxf3 Black wins a piece.

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**C41 S. Fedorchuk – J. Maiwald**  
Dresden (Bundesliga) 2008

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**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0–0 0–0 7.Re1 c6 8.a4 a5 9.Ba2  
exd4 10.Nxd4 Nc5 11.Bf4 Be6 12.e5 dxe5 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Bxe5 Nd5 15.Nxd5 exd5  
16.c4! dxc4?**



**17.Qg4! 1–0**

For if 17...Bf6 (17...g6) 18.Qxc4+

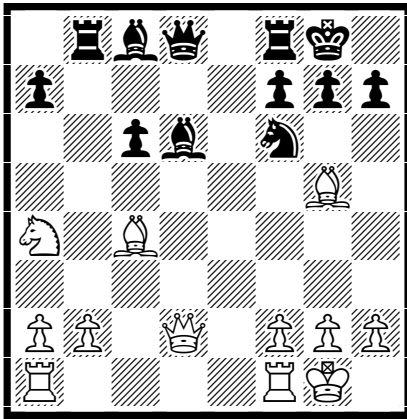
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**C47 S. Adamovic – G. Mitrovic**  
Belgrade Trophy, Obrenovac 2008

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**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5  
cxd5 9.0–0 0–0 10.Bg5 c6 11.Na4 Bd6 12.Qd2 Rb8 13.c4?? dxc4 14.Bxc4??**

After 14.Bc2 White would be only a pawn down.



14...Ne4! 0-1

White loses a piece.

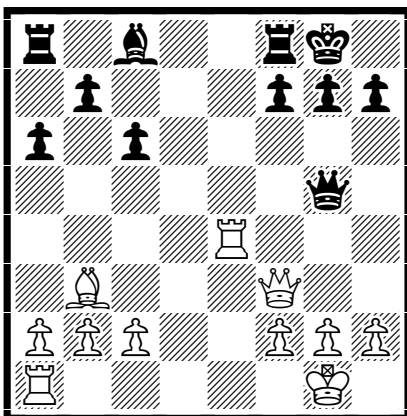
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C84 A. Okay – K. Komut  
Konya 2010

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1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d4 exd4 7.Re1 0-0 8.e5 Nd5 9.Bb3 Nb6 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 d5 12.exd6 Bxd6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Nd5 15.Qf3 Nf6 16.Nc3 c6 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Rxe4 Qg5??

A typical blunder, known from the time when chess was born!



**19.Qxf7+! 1-0**

Because of 19...Rxf7 20.Re8#

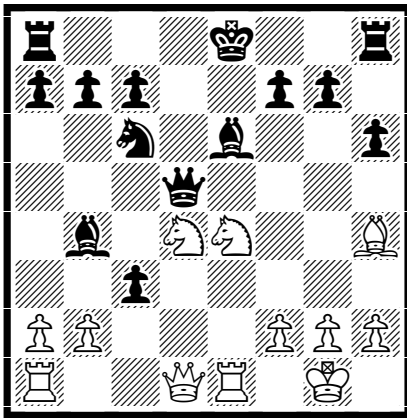
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**C56 D. Kerigan – B. Komut**

Konya 2010

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1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qa5  
9.Nxe4 Be6 10.Bd2 Qf5 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Bb4 13.c3 dxc3 14.Nd4 Qd5??



**15.Nxe6 fxe6**

If 15...Qxd1 16.Nxg7+! Kf8 17.Rexd1 cxb2 18.Rab1 Kxg7 19.Bf6+, followed by 20.Bxh8.

**16.Nf6+ 1-0**

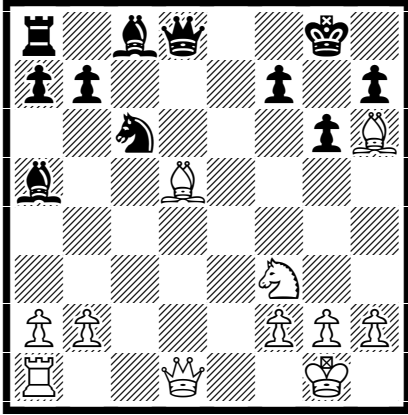
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**B10 T. Vagner – M. Mriso**

Teplice 2010

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1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.cxd5 Qxd5 5.Nc3 Qd8 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.0-0 g6  
 9.d4 e6 10.d5 exd5 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Be7 13.Re1 0-0 14.Bh6 Bb4 15.Bxf8 Bxe1  
 16.Bh6 Ba5



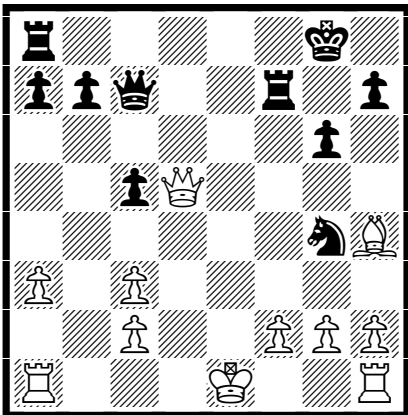
17.Bxf7+! Kxf7 18.Qb3+ Be6 19.Qxb7+ Bd7 20.Rd1 Ke8 21.Qb3 Ne7 22.Ne5 1-0

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C19 V. Talla – J. Wyss  
 Chur 2010

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1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0-0 8.Bd3 f5 9.exf6  
 Rxf6 10.Bg5 Rf7 11.Qh5 g6 12.Qd1 e5 13.dxe5 Nbc6 14.Bf6 Qc7 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.Be2  
 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Nxe5 18.Bxd5 Nxd5 19.Qxd5 Ng4 20.Bh4



**20...Re8+ 21.Kd1**

Or 21.Kf1 Ne3+

**21...Nxf2+ 0-1**

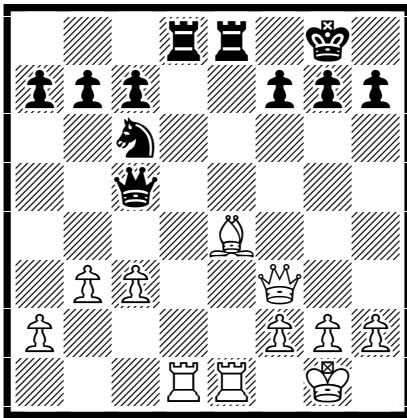
Because of 22.Bxf2 Rd8.

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**C42 Guzman Freire,J - Sanchez,JoseR**  
Santo Domingo 2010

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**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 Bg4 9.Qe2 d5 10.c4 Nc6 11.cxd5 Qxd5 12.Be4 Qe6 13.Re1 Rad8 14.Bf4 Bd6 15.Bxd6 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Qxd6 17.Rad1 Qb4 18.b3 Rfe8 19.c3 Qc5**



**20.Bd5!! Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Rf8 22.Re8 1-0**

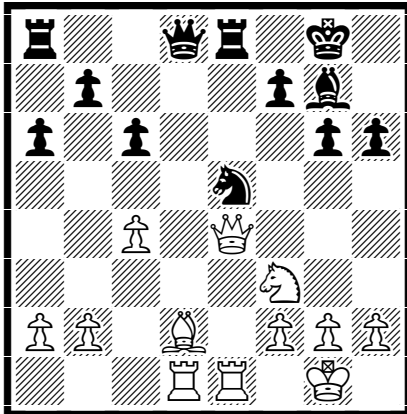
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**D11 Benidze,D - Buhmann,R**  
Rijeka 2010

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1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Nbd2 Bf5 6.Nh4 Bg4 7.Be2 Bxe2 8.Qxe2 g6 9.0-0 Bg7 10.Nhf3 0-0 11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nbd7 13.Bg5 Re8 14.Rfe1 h6 15.Bd2 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 e5 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Rad1??

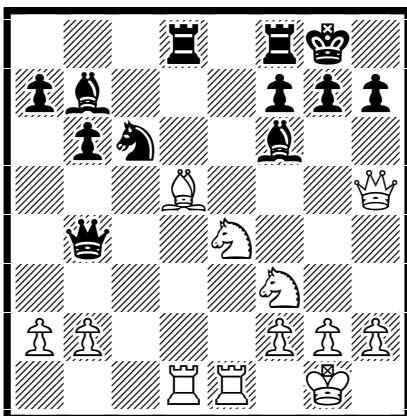
Even the most “obvious” move is sometimes a blunder!



18...Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Qxd2! 0-1

D26 Ki. Georgiev – V. Kukov  
Bulgaria (ch) Kyustendil 2010

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 cxd4 7.exd4 Nc6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Qd2 b6 11.Rad1 Bb7 12.Qf4 Nh5 13.Qh4 Bxg5 14.Qxh5 Bf6 15.d5 exd5 16.Bxd5 Qe7 17.Rfe1 Qb4 18.Ne4 Rad8





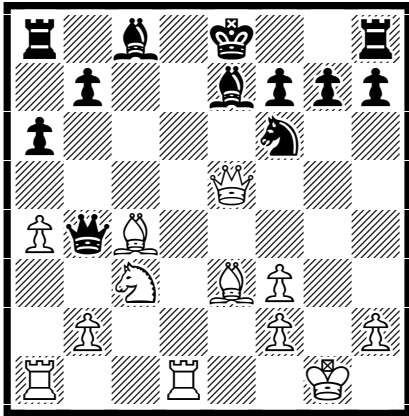
19.Nfg5 Bxg5 20.Nxg5 h6 21.Bxf7+ Kh8 22.Qg6 1-0

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**D27 T. Likavsky – J. Kochetkova**  
Banska Stiavnica 2010

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1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e3 a6 6.a4 c5 7.Bxc4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe2  
cxd4 10.Rd1 e5 11.exd4 Nxd4 12.Qxe5 Nxf3+ 13.gxf3 Qb6 14.Be3 Qb4



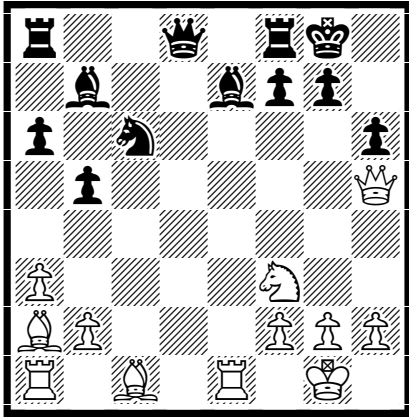
15.Rd4 Qxb2 16.Rb1 Qc2 17.Bd3 1-0

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**E57 V. Gagarin – A. Klimov**  
Moscow 2006

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1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.0-0 cxd4 9.exd4  
Nc6 10.a3 Be7 11.Re1 a6 12.Ba2 b5 13.d5 exd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5! Bb7 16.Qh5  
h6?



**17.Bxh6 gxh6 18.Qg6+ Kh8 19.Qxh6+ Kg8 20.Bb1 1-0**

For if 20...f5 21.Ba2+ Rf7 22.Qg6+ etc.