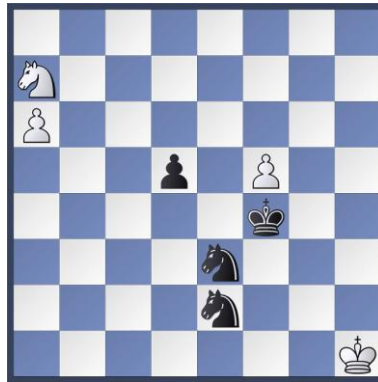1st Honourable Mention:
Study 14 (Arestov)

Win

A fine example of a study based on a tablebase reciprocal zugzwang. The starting position is natural, the zugzwang is genuinely surprising and the study is enhanced because the thematic try is more plausible than the actual solution. The agility of the a7-knight in preventing Black's knight from stopping the a-pawn is remarkable, and it's certainly a plus point that White's knight moves to all three possible squares in different variations.

2nd Honourable Mention:
Study 21 (Neghina)

Win

As published the study was unsound, but the composer corrected it by adding the black pawn on b5 and shortening the solution slightly (the black king no longer plays to h1). Even though the initial position is heavy, it's quite game-like and the play is interesting throughout. The white pieces make strenuous efforts to sacrifice themselves to achieve stalemate, with both the white knight and the white rook displaying suicidal intentions. Unusually, it's not all checking, since at one point White has to offer his rook to the enemy rook with a non-checking move. The duals near the end are rather unfortunate, but nevertheless the study creates a favourable impression.