



Axel Hacke, Michael Sowa **Little King December**

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Suddenly there he was: Little King December II. Groaning, he had squeezed his fat tummy through a gap between the bookcase and the wall, had nibbled on a jelly bear, and asked and answered questions. Why is he so small, no bigger than an index finger? Well, you see, in his world you are born big and get smaller and smaller, until one morning the valet can't find you in the bed at all. From the start you know everything you have to; you can read, write, program computers, lunch over business. The smaller you become, the more you forget everything, clear out some space in your mind again, can go into the garden and believe the shadows there are ghosts, give the clouds names and shout at your teddy. Childhood comes at the end of life. Read about whether this is a good or bad thing in these wonderfully poetic stories.



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Axel Hacke

Axel Hacke is a writer and columnist for the Süddeutsche Zeitung Magazin. He is one of Germany's best-known authors and his work has been widely translated. Most recently, *Über den Anstand in schwierigen Zeiten und die Frage, wie wir miteinander umgehen* (On decency in trying times and the question of how we can all get along) was published by Kunstmann in 2017.

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Michael Sowa

Michael Sowa, born 1945, has spent his life in Berlin. He studied art and education, and has been a freelance artist since 1975. Olaf Gulbransson Prize (1995).

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