

Axel Hacke, Michael Sowa
Prálinek

A Christmas Story

32 pages

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"Do you remember, we were lying on your bed, staring at the ceiling and waiting for Father Christmas." Every parent is familiar with this situation. What do you do? You can try reading a book or telling them a story, like the story of Prálinek. "Once upon a time there was a boy called Arthur", Axel Hacke's enchanting Christmas story begins, a modern fairy tale in which a little robot - created by Arthur from a box of pralines, a packet of washing powder, two empty loo rolls, corks and wire - comes to life and speaks a very curious language: "Whom melk chocolate will you give my?" Just like Hacke's "Kleiner König Dezember" (Little King December), "Prálinek" is a story for adults and children, a father-son story and a droll Christmas story about the nature of things. Once again, it is beautifully illustrated by Michael Sowa.



© Thomas Dashuber

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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