

The Author

Antje Damm, born in Wiesbaden in 1965, is an architect by trade and a writer by choice. She lives with her husband and four daughters in the vicinity of Gießen. All of her books make it evident that she is very close to children and the way they think. The German edition alone of her question book, *Ask me!*, which has been translated into more than a dozen languages, has sold more than 70,000 copies so far.

The Illustrator

Katja Gehrmann, born in 1968, studied Illustration in Mexico, Spain and Hamburg. She works for magazines and various publishing houses. *Besuch beim Hasen* (Visiting Rabbit), written by Christian Oster and illustrated by Katja was nominated for the German Children's Literature Award in 2014. www.katjagehrmann.de/

- Topics: Jesus, Zacchaeus, football, friendship, neighbours, miracles
- Award-winning author

ANTJE DAMM & KATJA GEHRMANN**Did Jesus Play Football?**

Fred and Emil often meet to play football in the afternoons. If it hadn't been for Mr. Kruzinna, the stupid neighbour! He cannot bear children and football even less. When one day a ball lands in his garden, he refuses to give it back. What are the boys to do? Fred suddenly remembers Zacchaeus from his religion lessons. If there is any truth in that story then all they have to do to get their ball back is be nice to Mr. Kruzinna. So Fred and his friends decide to write him a letter ...

Antje Damm narrates the conflict between the children and the neighbour parallel to the biblical Zacchaeus story, which inspires the two friends to an extraordinary idea, which actually ends in being a small miracle for Fred. Katja Gehrmann's illustrations capture the children's perspective and aptly reflect their mood.

**REVIEWS**

"Told in the breathless zigzag of childlike logic—a pleasure, also to read aloud!" - Bettina Kugler, *St. Galler Tagblatt*

"A gorgeous example of how easy-going a Biblical story can be interwoven with a child's everyday life." - *Evangelisches Literaturportal*



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EARLY READERS

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