

# Girls Who Grew Up to Change the World



## The Teacher From The St Nicolai Kindergarten



It's a peaceful summer morning in Germany. The children of St Nicolai kindergarten head out on an adventure in the woods.



It's a warm day and the vivid green trees are swaying gently in a cool breeze. Suddenly, a scream rings out. Someone has disappeared.



While playing with a pile of logs, a three-year-old boy has fallen through a panel of rotten wood covering an old coal mineshaft.



The drop is twenty-five metres into a pool of deep water.  
The boy can't swim.



Without even thinking, his teacher throws herself into the darkness after him. she finds the boy and holds him to her chest. Scrabbling desperately, she finds something to hold onto on the wall of the mineshaft.



The water is cold and dark, and full of old pieces of rusty metal. Her body heat keeps the boy alive.



'We're okay,' she shouts up to the other children.





They wait together for an hour and a half. Finally, firefighters arrive to lift them both out of the pit. Neither of them are badly hurt.



‘It may have been cold,’ the firefighters say, ‘but without the water, both of them would have crashed into the ground and died.’



Newspapers across Germany read: Brave Schoolteacher Saves Child From Drowning. That year, she is made Teacher of the Year and everyone in Germany is talking about the miracle in the Osterwald forest.



Not wanting to draw attention to herself, the brave schoolteacher doesn't want anyone to know her name. The majority of the country might not know who she is, but they admire her for her courage and kindness regardless.





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