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Opening extract from **A Twist of Tales** Written by Julia Donaldson Illustrated by

Peter Bailey

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This book is super readable for young readers beginning their independent reading journey.

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King March had a tall gold crown. He wore it all the time.

He wore it when he ate.

He wore it when he danced.

He even wore it in bed.



"The King must love that crown," the people said.

But King March didn't love his crown. It was hot and it was heavy.

So why did he wear it?

He wore it because it hid his ears.

King March's ears were his big secret. They were not like your ears or my ears. They were long and furry, like a horse's ears. The only person who had ever seen King March's ears was Owen. Owen was the man who cut the King's hair. The King made Owen promise not to tell anyone about his long furry ears.

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"I promise," Owen said.

It was hard for Owen to keep his promise.

'I wish I could tell just one person,' Owen thought. 'I wish I could tell my wife Alis.'

Alis could see that Owen was not happy.

"What's the matter?" she asked.

"Nothing," Owen said.

The secret seemed to grow and grow inside Owen's head. It felt heavy, as heavy as the King's tall gold crown.

Owen's head began to hurt.

