



Gabriel's

EYE SURGERY
ADVENTURE

Words by Susan Wolf

Photographs by Alice Williams

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*This book is a revision of "Jonathan's Hospital Book,"
published in 1987 by the Bialis Family Foundation.*

Dedicated to: Sarice, Zoe, Noah and Caleb.



My name is Gabriel. And this is the story of how my eyes were fixed.



Sometimes when I looked in the mirror, I saw that my eyes were crossed. Other people noticed it too.



My Mom took me to the eye doctor. My little sister Autumn came, too. We had to wait a long time but there were lots of fun books to read and games to play.



Finally, they called my name and I went in to see Eileen, the orthoptist. She measured the strength of my eye muscles. I had trouble saying her job name but she was very nice.



This is Dr. Mark, my eye doctor.



While he examined my eyes, he showed me lots of funny toys and made me laugh.



Dr. Mark gave me an eye patch to help my eye muscles get stronger for surgery.



My friends thought I looked cool, like a pirate!



Whenever I wore my patch, I got to play great computer games. My friends wished they had a patch, too.



After I wore the patch for a while, Dr. Mark said I was ready to have the eye surgery that would make my eyes straight.



Dr. Mark sent me to my pediatrician for a check up before the eye surgery. I was happy I didn't need any shots!



The night before the eye surgery, I felt really scared. My Dad told lots of silly jokes but all I could think about was the next day. Then my Mom and Dad said, “Don’t worry. We will stay with you at the hospital the whole time.” That made me feel better.



The next morning, my Mom and Dad woke me up early to go to the hospital. I wasn't allowed to eat breakfast or anything before surgery.



When we got there, my Mom and Dad were busy with lots and lots of papers. I felt hungry and grumpy.



Then we sat and waited in the waiting room forever.



Finally, a nurse came to listen to my heart. Then she let me listen to my teddybear's heart.



Another nurse brought me a tasty drink to help me feel calm.



This is Dr. Gary, my anesthesiologist. He wears funny pajamas to work. He promised me that I would feel no pain. He showed me a mask that I would breathe through to make me fall asleep. It smelled just like bubblegum.

“It’s time for your surgery, Gabriel,” he said.



My Dad put on the same funny pajamas to carry me toward the operating room. He kissed me and said, “I’ll see you soon.”



In the operating room, Dr. Gary laid me down on a long bed with a warm blanket. I felt sleepy and safe.



“Remember the mask I showed you?” asked Dr. Gary. “I’m going to put it over your nose now.” In a few seconds, I felt so sleepy I couldn’t watch the interesting machines in the operating room anymore. My eyes began to close...



While I was fast asleep, Dr. Mark fixed my eyes and I didn't feel any pain.



When I woke up, I was in my mom's lap. My eyes felt sandy so she wiped them with a soft cloth. I was thirsty too. My mom gave me orange juice to drink.



I still felt sleepy but before I knew it, we were all going home.



The next day, Dr. Mark checked my eyes in his office. “Now your eyes are nice and straight,” he said with a smile. I smiled, too.



Three days later, I was wearing my regular glasses and playing soccer again.



I'm happy that my eyes are straight, just like all these kids who had the same surgery I did.

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