



DAVID'S TRAGIC ILLNESS

BY EVELYN WARD
(David's mom)
as told to Gloria Stavers

IT BEGAN when David was two and a half years old. His mother—actress-singer Evelyn Ward—had noticed that even at the age of two, David's eyes seemed to bother him a little. That is, they went in and out of focus "improperly" and David seemed to have less control of his vision than he should have.

"But," David's mom reasoned to herself, "all kids have problems with their eyes until they're older. They all have that kind of hazy or dazy look once in awhile."

However, Evelyn couldn't drop these thoughts from her mind, and when David was about two and a half she began to observe his eye movements very, very carefully. They didn't seem as *con-*

trolled as they should have been and he continued to occasionally get a sort of glassy-eyed look, as though his powers to focus weren't working well. But Evelyn continued to say to herself, "All children are like this. They have to *learn* to focus. It just takes some children longer than others. Oh, well—"

It turned out that Evelyn Ward was right. But the thing that she *didn't* know was that some children need *help* in learning how to focus their eyes and to control their eye movements! When David was just a bit over two and a half, Evelyn decided the time had come to take her son to an eye specialist. The doctor—an eye-surgical-specialist—told her, "The procedure in these matters