

## The Market, Week 1

It was that time of year in California when the weather could not decide if it was going to be pleasant or miserable. But like anyone who has lived in this area for any length of time, you learn to live with it. The sun would be going down soon and with it comes the promise of a cool evening, unlike areas like phoenix where the temperature could still be 90 degrees at midnight. Where I live, you usually have a cool breeze that allows a person to sleep at night.

I am headed for the "Market" which is a "throw back" to earlier times when neighbors did not hide behind closed doors at night, where their closest companion was the TV and their best friend was found on Facebook. The "Market" is a weekly outdoor gathering of various vendors. They meet in the restored old town of our community with their various wares. Farmers bring their crops, others bring hand crafted items, and of course there is the "food". Hoping to attract families there is even pony rides and a bounce house for the kids. I think I'll pass on the pony ride tonight and the bounce house will have to wait also! Stepping outside my house is like stepping into another world. The scent of funnel cakes and the music from the bandstand pull me like a magnet into "Main Street USA", my town.

My name is Charlie and I have a specific place I want to go tonight and a specific person I need to see. I peek in at the "purse" lady, but the person I'm looking for isn't buying purses tonight. I head for the burrito stand, but no, she isn't there either. Perhaps she decided not to show up; just my luck. She knows I need the book she has been holding for me and she knows if I don't get it soon...well, let's just say, the price on my head is going to be much higher than I can afford to pay. This is no ordinary book; our new library has never even heard of it. All I can do is continue to walk through the marketplace, looking for a lady with a green scarf carrying an enormous book under her arm. Ah, perhaps she is buying a funnel cake...and if not, all is not lost because I definitely need a cake tonight!