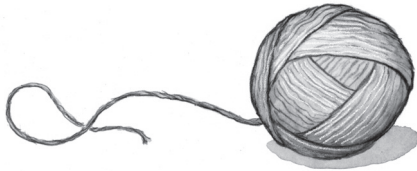


CHAPTER 1



As the sun rose higher in the sky, Gazebo Square echoed with cheerful cries of “Good morning!”

People behind the booths were setting out their brightly colored displays as they greeted their first customers of the day. The square was buzzing with happy chatter, and the air smelled like coffee and freshly baked cinnamon buns. Over at the

gazebo bandstand, three boys were playing a happy tune.

“Good morning!” eight-year-old twins Meg and Charlie shouted to their friends as they hurried past. Charlie’s backpack was full of yummy breakfast treats. Meg was clutching the handle of a big straw basket in one hand and a dog leash in the other. At the end of the leash was a fluffy golden puppy with a brown marking around one eye, like a pirate’s eye patch. Meg smiled proudly. Buster looked so cute prancing along on his big puppy paws.

“*Woof!*” Buster suddenly barked and tugged his leash out of Meg’s hand.

“He spotted his brother!” Charlie said with a laugh. He pointed to another ball of golden fur, shooting out from under the