MARASCHINO MARRIAGE PACT by Tamela Miles Excerpt

"You know better than to use your magick in public, Mikayla. What if I was some ordinary human passerby?"

Mikayla froze midmotion. That deep, amused drawl had been with her since she was a child. She slowly turned around, scowling. "I knew I shouldn't have come back here for the summer. Am I that obvious, Austin?"

The tall, leanly muscled man with straight dark hair and piercing chocolate-brown eyes shrugged, a small smile playing on his lips. "I lost track of you last year in Rome. Kudos for managing to give me the slip, considering I taught you every trick you know. I bet on your sentimentality about this place bringing you back." He gestured at the skimpy black sundress she wore. "You're looking well."

She nodded. "Thank you. You haven't changed. You never do. Why can't every warlock age as gracefully as you do?" Sighing heavily, she placed her hands on her hips. "If you tell me again to come home, I'm hopping off this pier."

His face shuttered. "I have news about your family, Mikayla. This time, it's serious."