LOVE BLOOMS by Jennifer Faye EXCERPT

Agnes knew everyone who lived on the island year-round, as well as everything that happened within the town limits—and probably even what was going on in the outlying areas. The woman was a fount of information. And what she didn't know, she surmised—usually in a dark foreboding manner.

"It's going to be a beautiful day." Hannah paused pedaling.

"That it is. Too bad it's not going to stay that way. Today's horoscope was troubling-"

"So sorry to hear that but I don't have time to chat." Hannah resumed pedaling. She knew stopping to talk would deflate her good mood. Some days Agnes predicted good things. And then there were days like today where doom and gloom lurked in her words. "Hope you have a good day."

Agnes's brows drew together. And with her gray hair pulled back tightly in her customary bun, she looked a bit intimidating. "You don't want to hear about the prediction?"

"Maybe another time. I'm late." She kept pedaling right past Agnes. Nothing was going to ruin her good mood.