



### Short

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### Medium

Mrs. Sportelli shares her love of social history through her romances. No matter the era, love still conquers. She enjoys telling stories of love, courtship, and marriage.

She wrote about Grazia's romance set in early 17th century Venice in *The Songbird of Venice* because of the social changes affecting the newlywed couple and their happiness. Venice and the Veneto hold a special place in Ms. Sportelli's heart because her family originally came from the Veneto region.

Ms. Sportelli's first books feature a critical time in England's history. She wrote *Lady Margaret's Disgrace* (a prequel) and of Margaret's adventures in her *Henry's Spare Queen Trilogy* because women like Margaret were property in an era when men held all the power.



### Long

Ms. Sportelli loves writing romances. She reads social histories and imagines what living in that era is like for women. After she creates her main characters, she thoroughly researches the women's lives and their challenges before writing her novels. How important were women? What were their daily lives like? What did they wear? How did they fall in love? What were the marriage customs? What were their social activities?

In keeping with those questions, Ms. Sportelli is a member of her local Renaissance festival. Wearing a period costume, speaking as a 16th century

English woman would, and interacting with visitors while explaining her life as the Countess of Cumberland, she shares her love of social history.

During high school and college, Ms. Sportelli's history classes featured leaders, conflicts, wars, battles, and laws without considering the lives of the people who had to live through those events. She asked: How did the geo-political events affect the average person? Her teachers did not consider her questions important and did not answer her.

While teaching high school, she was asked to substitute for a social studies teacher, whose class was examining the social history of the Roaring Twenties in the United States. She read their textbook and fell in love with social history. Ever since, she's been reading and researching eras that interest her. She is currently researching: 16th century Quebec, Canada; Tudor England; 14th century York, England; mid-20th century London.

In college Ms. Sportelli intended to become a college professor of the British medieval ages, but she switched to teaching English, language arts, and British literature. She now holds a master's degree in gifted education and has taught high school, middle school, and a college course for pre-service teachers. Because she enjoys being with young people, she is glad she switched majors.