

## Conversation With The Housecat

Written by Silver & Rain of The Dragonheart Collective

\_ Hello, other little Thing With Paws

\* Am I like you?

\_ You flinch at the loud sounds, you walk on paws, like Little Animals should

\_ You sharpen claws and use them, you remember how to bite, how to growl

\_ You lie in the sun and dream of catching plump ducks and little wriggling bugs and tender velvety mice

\_ You know how to speak like Little Animals should- press close in face and speak the words Little Animals speak

\_ And *oh*, you speak it so well you understand this now; the language of paw and eyes and tail and ears- that your flesh does not have them matters not

\_ You know how to love with claws without hurting, how to see little things, how to find magic in nothing

\_ You love like a Little Animal should -wholly, deeply, simply- the proper loyal animal-love of the clowder, nothing more, nothing less

\_ You know four-paws is best, and how to purr yourself brave and calm

\_ Most of all, Those That Are People treat you like one. They are Big, they must know.

\_ People don't speak to Little Animals, they talk about us while we sit pretty nearby, and I hear how they speak of you in People-Words

\_ The ears and whiskers and tail of your heart show bright

\_ So tell me; name yourself, what are you?

\* A little Thing With Paws.

\* Little Things With Paws understand, so a Thing With Paws is what I must be

\_ Of course you are, Paw-Brother

\* I'd like to know what home is like, Paw-Brother

\_ It is the shape of love. It is shed-fur-on-pelts, it is the trust that there will be no hurt, it is another who presses close and purrs for you when you cannot.

\* Home isn't with Those That Are People, I don't think it ever has been. Home is with you.

\_ And I you.