

For as long as I can remember I've written poetry and short stories, in that I'm not very different from most writers. From the time I read the stories of King Arthur, The Lord of the Rings, and The Dragons of Pern, I knew where my heart lay. I've always been fascinated with magical realms and dragons, and collected any story these were featured in. However, for me, something was always missing in those stories, and for years I told myself someday I'd write the type of fantasy I wanted to read.

Well I did. That's how *Dragon's Heart-Story of the Brethren* came about. I didn't want dragons to merely have an affinity with humans; I wanted them to truly be one being that had two forms. I wanted a fantasy world where magic existed, and I wanted a love story surrounding the dragon. As a person of color, I also wanted my heroine to be a reflection of myself, be it in the color of her skin and/or features, and it goes without saying she had to have a strong personality. After all, she had to tame a dragon. Not much, but out of that desire came the story of the brethren, a race of shapeshifting dragons. This was my first writing contest, and it seems fitting for me it's the story closest to my heart that won. I will be forever grateful to the women who found this story as compelling as I wanted it to be, and likewise to the sisters of my heart who encouraged me to submit it.

If you'd like to learn more about me and my writing, please visit my blog at isisindc.blogspot.com. I am also an active member and assistant manager on the online readers and writers forum IMRR, Interracial Multicultural Romance Readers <http://groups.msn.com/InterracialMulticulturalRomanceReaders>. Please come check us out.

LaVerne Thompson