Episode 1: Ragamuffin Outbreak

"Move over, everyone! Out of my way! Give me my coffee before that guy, Idris." The monster, Grobobalopacus, pushed its way through the crowded magic dispensary. A man with a Navy SEAL hat, the next in line, frowned and crossed his arms. The evening light that fell upon him seemed to sparkle. Idris prepared Grobo's coffee and added two shots of espresso and a touch of cream.

"This is an outrage!" The man in the Navy SEAL hat yelled. "I risked my life for your freedom to act like a dummy, but we've been waiting in line for twenty minutes!"

Grobo shrugged. "Look, I'm jealous you got to work with seals. They are so cute." The monster said. "But I'm in a hurry, and your little outburst here is costing me a lot of my precious time."

"So is everyone else here! Do you know what I am? I'm a spice vampire! If I don't get my pumpkin spice latte soon, I'm going to start craving blood. Wait your turn!"

"Nah," Grobo said.

Idris watched as the man stuck out an arm to stop the monster from leaving. "Someone should teach you a lesson, you nasty thing! You act like you can do whatever you want!"

Grobo took a sip of his coffee in one mouth, but made a slurping sound with all its other mouths. "I can totally do whatever I want. Don't make Idris use the forbidden carrot wand on you."

Idris sighed.

The man rolled down his long sleeves and got into a boxing stance. "You walk around acting like you can cure cancer or something!"

Idris walked from behind the counter. The room fell silent. The man in the hat looked around, appearing

## The Calling of Idris Whitaker

confused at the people with their heads hung low. Appearing confused at the people with their heads hung low

"Grobo can cure cancer," Idris said casually. "Here you go. Hope you aren't too late for your appointment at the children's hospital."

Grobo waved with one hand, saluted with another, then all the hands gave her a thumbs up. "See you later, Idris, my fellow sin against nature!"

The man in the Navy SEALs hat leapt out of the monster's way. Everyone else in the packed store stepped aside so that his path was clear to the door.