

SELFLESS

by

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OVER BLACK

Eerie music PLAYS OVER. Two words spin like ceiling fans going opposite directions. They cross each other's path until they share the same center.

Slowing, they're revealed to be the same word - "SELFLESS." One of them correctly oriented, the other a mirror image.

They slow to a stop. Over each other, they form symbols reminiscent of hieroglyphics. The music crescendoes.

The reversed word is then swept away, leaving only the correctly oriented title - "SELFLESS."

CUT TO:

1 GLASS 1

The TRANSLUCENT REFLECTION of a woman FADES INTO the surface, over food items. This is SELENA GRIFFIN. 20s. Eyes closed, she groans, nauseated.

2 FLOOR 2

A RING falls, HITS the tile and settles.

3 INT. BISTRO - DAY 3

Selena leans on the side of a case for support, holding her stomach. A CLERK arrives from the back.

CLERK
Are you all right?

Selena's eyes flick open. She straightens, nods. The clerk steps behind the counter.

CLERK (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

Selena regards the case, stammering to come up with an order.

SELENA
A turtle and some coffee.

The clerk sets her order on the counter.

CLERK
Three dollars.

Selena awkwardly pulls two bills from her pocketbook and pauses. It's not enough. She smiles, embarrassed. Hands him a credit card.

CLERK (CONT'D)

I just need to see some ID.

She hands over her LICENSE. The picture in the corner is NOT SELENA'S.

CLERK (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, this is someone else's license.

SELENA

No, that's right.

The clerk gives the license a confused second look.

CLERK

This isn't you.

SELENA

Yes. That's me.

The clerk points directly at the photo so there's no mistake.

CLERK

This picture? You're saying this is you?

Selena stares at the clerk like he's out of his mind.

SELENA

Yes. That's me. Are you vision impaired?

The clerk gives the photo one last bewildered look.

CLERK

I'm gonna have to call someone.

4

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

4

A DETECTIVE, holding Selena's license, opens the door for her. She steps in, upset.

DETECTIVE

We're gonna have you wait in here for now.

SELENA

I don't understand. I just got that license a month ago. That's clearly me in the photo.

She notices something about her hand.

SELENA (CONT'D)

My ring is gone. I know I had it on this morning. I must have lost it at the restaurant. Maybe someone turned it in.

She looks closer at her fingers, becoming more confused.

SELENA (CONT'D)

My fingernails are longer. I just cut them. Something's wrong.

The detective watches her a moment, not sure what to say.

DETECTIVE

Just have a seat and relax. We're just checking some things out.

He holds that expression as he backs out.

5 INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - HALLWAY - LATER

5

DR. ROTH enters. The detective greets him, hand extended.

DETECTIVE

Dr. Roth.

DR. ROTH

(shaking hands)

How are you, Detective?

DETECTIVE

Fine. How's the new facility coming?

DR. ROTH

Slow.

They chuckle as they start walking.

DETECTIVE

Still housing patients in the old building?

DR. ROTH
 Oh yes. It'll be at least another
 year. Sounds like you have an
 interesting case right here.

The detective hands Dr. Roth Selena's license.

DETECTIVE
 Whoever she is, she knows a lot
 about the real Selena Griffin.

They stop by the door.

DR. ROTH
 Has anyone contacted Selena?

DETECTIVE
 I went by the address on the
 license. No one answers. She had
 Selena's cell phone on her.
 (then)
 Listen, Doc. At first I thought
 this was a standard identity theft,
 but this is something else. She
 really believes she's Selena.

DR. ROTH
 Okay, then, let me see her.

6 INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS 6

Selena looks up when she hears Dr. Roth entering.

DR. ROTH
 Hello Selena.

He steps to the table. She watches, a little apprehensive.

SELENA
 Hi. Did you find out anything?

DR. ROTH
 Not yet. We're still trying to
 confirm your identity.

SELENA
 I'm Selena Griffin. How many times
 do I have to say it?

He sits across from her.

DR. ROTH
I know. I'm not trying to upset
you. I'm here to help you.

SELENA
Then why can't I go home?

Dr. Roth sets the license on the table. Observes Selena.

DR. ROTH
What can you tell me about your
childhood?

SELENA
What do you mean?

DR. ROTH
Do you recall your mother?

SELENA
Of course. I just spoke to her the
other day. I can call her right
now if you want.

DR. ROTH
Can you describe a specific memory
you have of your mother when you
were a child?

Selena gazes in disbelief. She realizes what's happening.

SELENA
You're a psychiatrist. They think
I'm crazy.

DR. ROTH
No one thinks you're crazy.

SELENA
Yes, you do. You think I'm lying.
What is the matter with you people?

DR. ROTH
I'm only trying to --

Selena slams the table!

SELENA
Look at the picture! This is very
simple.

She grabs the license, holds it up.

SELENA (CONT'D)
Can't you see that's me?

It's not her in the picture. Off Dr. Roth, perplexed.

7 EXT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - SITTING AREA - MOMENTS LATER 7

The automatic door slides open, revealing Dr. Roth. He steps out. The detective sits on a bench, taking a break.

DR. ROTH
It's incredible. She's created one
of the most elaborate fantasies
I've ever encountered.

Dr. Roth approaches the detective, sits beside him.

DETECTIVE
I told you, Doc. I figure she must
have known Selena for a long time.
Maybe they were roommates or
something.

DR. ROTH
I'd like to try something. Does
your department have a sketch
artist?

8 INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER 8

Dr. Roth enters with a SKETCH and a MIRROR. Sets the mirror face down. Holds the sketch up. It's an accurate rendering of her face.

DR. ROTH
Do you recognize this woman?

Selena takes the drawing. Scans it, shakes her head.

SELENA
I've never seen her before.

DR. ROTH
You don't see any similarity
between yourself and the person in
the sketch?

SELENA
No. Who is she?

Dr. Roth lifts the mirror slightly, hesitates.

DR. ROTH
I'd like you to compare yourself to
the sketch.

He raises it for Selena to see... HER REFLECTION. It's a
near perfect match to the sketch. Her eyes go wide.

SELENA
My face.

DR. ROTH
Do you see the cheekbones? The
chin? The similarities?

Selena drops the sketch, feels her face in a panic.

SELENA
My face! What happened to my face?
My face is gone!

DR. ROTH
The woman in the sketch is you.

Selena, frantic, pushes away from the table.

SELENA
That's not me! My face is gone!
Where's my face? This isn't my
face! My face has changed! What
happened to my face?

Dr. Roth sets the mirror down.

DR. ROTH
Calm down.

Selena steps back, nearly hyperventilating.

SELENA
Where is my face?

CUT TO:

9 MONTAGE - PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC

9

Tragic music PLAYS OVER the whole montage.

EXT. GROUNDS - DAY

Several PATIENTS walk the grounds, wearing identical white
pajamas. Like Thorazine zombies. We pan to see...

A sign reads - "HENRY PRATT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC."

EXT. PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Selena sits on a bench alone, a patient, sadly pondering.
How did I get here?

Another patient fidgets uncontrollably across from her. He
looks up, becomes fixated on Selena. Glares at her.

Selena notices. Hops off the bench and leaves, followed by
the nervous patient's eyes.

EXT. BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Selena walks onto a bridge that crosses a creek. Stops at
the rail to watch the water flow. Close on her, racing
through thoughts. Lost.

END MONTAGE

10 INT. DR. ROTH'S OFFICE - DAY

10

Dr. Roth sits across from Selena with a clipboard.

SELENA

I've been going over it again and
again in my mind for three days...
and I just can't figure it out.

Dr. Roth gazes sympathetically. Jots down notes.

DR. ROTH

You're still convinced you're
Selena?

SELENA

I know I am.

She looks at him. He doesn't believe her. It's frustrating.

SELENA (CONT'D)

I'm telling you, I've been Selena
Griffin every day of my life until
three days ago. How do you explain
the fact that I had the keys to her
car? Her apartment?

DR. ROTH

Lots of people have the keys to
someone else's home.

SELENA

What about the fact that I know her bank account number? Everyone she knows? Everyone she's ever dated?

DR. ROTH

I have friends whose lives I have intimate details of.

SELENA

Specific childhood memories? Things only that person could know?

DR. ROTH

Things that aren't verifiable.

SELENA

Get my mother here. I know I can convince her I'm Selena.

DR. ROTH

She doesn't recognize you.

Selena stares, defeated. Puts her face in her hands.

SELENA

I just want to go home. I don't want to stay here anymore.

DR. ROTH

You've done a great deal of insisting you're Selena. You've spoken very little about the evidence you're not.

Selena raises her face, with desperate eyes.

SELENA

I don't know how to explain it.

DR. ROTH

You don't have her face. You don't have her fingerprints. Her medical records don't match you.

SELENA

I don't know!

Dr. Roth's eyes pulse. Selena fights to calm down.

SELENA (CONT'D)

I don't know how this happened.
I'm me. But I'm not me. This
isn't my face. These aren't my
hands. They're like mine. I
didn't even notice at first. But
they're not mine.

(then)

I woke up three days ago and
everything was fine... until I went
to the restaurant.

DR. ROTH

What happened at the restaurant?

SELENA

Nothing. I went there for coffee,
the same way I have a thousand
times.

DR. ROTH

Nothing unusual happened? You
don't recall anything out of the
ordinary?

Selena thinks hard and deep.

SELENA

There was this one thing. At the
counter. I felt this...

Selena becomes sluggish, like she's about to pass out. She
closes her eyes and grabs her stomach, nauseous. Dr. Roth
pauses in the middle of making notes, looks up.

DR. ROTH

What?

SELENA

I... I felt... something like...

DR. ROTH

Are you all right? Do you need to
lie down? You look pale.

Then... right in front of Dr. Roth...

Selena VANISHES. FADES OUT of existence, as though phasing
into another dimension. Dr. Roth is utterly flabbergasted.
So stunned, it takes him a moment to react.

DR. ROTH (CONT'D)

What the hell?

He leans forward, staring at Selena's empty chair. Sets his clipboard on the coffee table. He just can't absorb it.

DR. ROTH (CONT'D)
What the... Where the...

He steps to the couch, feels the vacant space.

DR. ROTH (CONT'D)
What the hell just happened?

He looks behind the couch, even though that's ridiculous.

DR. ROTH (CONT'D)
Where...

He looks under the coffee table.

DR. ROTH (CONT'D)
What the hell happened?

He doesn't know which way to turn, he's so stumped. Sits back down, completely numb.

Then... SOMETHING begins to FADE IN. Dr. Roth stares awestruck. Reaches out to touch part of it and...

SNAP! A FLASH OF LIGHT. Dr. Roth's hand is smacked away by a burst of energy. He holds his stinging hand, groaning.

Then...

THE WOMAN IN THE LICENSE PHOTO... APPEARS.

She FADES IN the same way Selena faded out. Nauseous and dizzy. Eyes closed. Dr. Roth is absolutely astonished.

DR. ROTH (CONT'D)
How did you do that?

She recovers in an instant, like the nausea just vanished.

WOMAN
What? What are you talking about?

DR. ROTH
How did you do that?

WOMAN
What?

She reacts to Dr. Roth's horrified expression by feeling her face. Realizes her face is different. She leaps up and goes to the...

11 WALL MIRROR

11

We move in tighter as... her eyes widen with shock. And joy.

WOMAN

My face! My face is back!

She notices her hand. She's wearing a ring.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

My ring is back... and my face is back.

Dr. Roth steps behind her, IN THE MIRROR. Still confused.

DR. ROTH

This is impossible.

She's too damn happy to see her original face to care about that. She feels her face, ecstatic.

WOMAN

I'm back!

We follow as she turns and excitedly hugs Dr. Roth.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I'm back to myself!

She runs out, leaving the door open. Dr. Roth chases after.

DR. ROTH

No, wait!

They pass by the windows as they go down the hallway. We turn, panning the room until we stop at the... mirror. We float toward the glass and...

12 PASS RIGHT THROUGH THE SURFACE

12

Breaking the plane, and float into...

DR. ROTH'S OFFICE - INVERTED REALM

It's Dr. Roth's office, with everything backward from the way we saw it on the other side. We stop just beyond the plane. Dr. Roth sits stunned across from... Selena.

DR. ROTH

How did you do that?

She recovers instantly from nausea.

SELENA

What? What are you talking about?

DR. ROTH

How did you do that?

SELENA

What?

It's the exact same scene we just saw, but inverted. Selena jumps up and goes to the... mirror (CAMERA POV). Looks directly into it. Her eyes widen with the same shock and joy the woman from the alternate universe had just shown.

SELENA (CONT'D)

My face! My face is back!

She notices her hand. No ring.

SELENA (CONT'D)

My ring is gone... but my face is back.

Dr. Roth steps INTO THE BACKGROUND, mimicking the earlier mirror shot, as confused as he was with the other woman.

DR. ROTH

This is impossible.

Selena feels her face, ecstatic.

SELENA

I'm back!

She turns and excitedly hugs Dr. Roth.

SELENA (CONT'D)

I'm back to myself!

She runs out the inverted door, leaving it open. Dr. Roth chases after.

DR. ROTH

No, wait!

They pass the windows as before, but this time the whole hallway goes the opposite direction.

DISSOLVE TO:

13 INT. BISTRO - DAY

13

We travel slowly across the surface of the floor, like a spacecraft hovering over the surface of a planet. Toward... the ring. Still lying on the floor.

DISSOLVE TO:

14 INT. BISTRO - MOMENTS LATER

14

Looking down at the ring from the glass case level. We tilt up to see the clerk. He grabs Selena's item. As he starts to put it away, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

THE INVERTED REALM

The clerk wipes the counter down. As he grabs Selena's cup and walks away, we tilt down to find...

The ring is gone.

CUT TO:

BLACK

END CREDITS.