

# SELFLESS

by

Breanne Mattson

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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.