

## Flamboyant: Susan Greenfield

Pink was her colour. Always would be. From clothes to accessories, from furniture to fabric and from utensils to wall colour, she relished pinkness. Her life was 'in the pink.'

I first met Rebecca through a friend who had invited me to her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party. She flung open her pink front door and a vision of extraordinary flamboyance stood in front of me. Her hair was pink and was crowned with a coronet of pink quartz. Pink eyeshadow set off her bright blue eyes and pink blusher and powder gave her an earthly glow. A gaudy salmon pink boa covered Rebecca's neck, while dangling fuchsia earrings blended in.

Not wanting to stare, I kept my eyes on her head but then the desire to take in her whole persona overtook me. The dress was amazing. Bright pink flamingos, watermelons, and cherry blossoms were sewn into magenta silk which cascaded down to her ankles. The tops of shocking pink stockings and pink satin shoes finished her perfect pink perfection.

The entire unit was pink in all its various shades. Fuchsia walls, soft pink carpets and rose-coloured furniture. It was overwhelming. Somewhere in her unit, 'Chicago' was playing Razzle Dazzle as Rebecca paraded herself around the room, serving rose tea and pink cakes to everyone. She flaunted herself, thoroughly pleased at the impression she was making. I decided that I had no time for Rebecca.

I withdrew into a corner of the unit until my friend came up and engaged me in conversation. When I voiced my misgivings about her friend, she suggested that I talked to her and that it might change how I felt.

I found Rebecca on her balcony which was covered in pink pots holding pink roses. I had a long conversation with her, and I

learnt that her mother, and two of her sisters had died of breast cancer. Her flamboyance in dress and life made sure that they were never forgotten. She explained that it also raised awareness of this crippling disease and raised money for the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. Her birthday celebration was an occasion where this could happen and where her family and friends could donate to the cause.

It was humbling to find out this information and it made me realise that we should never make judgements about people when we first meet them. Humans are much more than they appear to be.

Susan Greenfield © 2024