



Effekten af Susan

Peter Høeg

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Susan Svendsen har en effekt på folk, som ingen andre: Hun er nærmest et sandhedsserum i sig selv, og alle mennesker betror sig til hende.

Peter Høeg står bag spændingsromanen "Effekten af Susan", der fører den ellers helt almindelige Susan ud på noget af en mission.

Susan kommer til at slå en skuespiller ned i et indisk kasino, og nu får hun brug for en hurtig redning, hvis hun ikke skal ende i et indisk fængsel. Med én klar betingelse, tilbyder en tidligere dansk embedsmand, at hente hende hjem. Hun skal bruge sine særlige evner, til en særlig mission.

Men det er en kompliceret mission, og det står hurtigt klart, at Susan er endt lige i centrum af en magtkamp, som hun ikke kan vinde.

Effekten af Susan Details

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From Reader Review Effekten af Susan for online ebook

Katnys says

Too much of everything in this book and it makes it "not-balanced" or even "blurred". What is the main idea of the book? Susan's effect and how we would live our lives if we were sincere and open? Or "our rotten society" Family relations?

I read the book quickly as it is well written and the author manages to keep one's attention with interesting descriptions and unexpected developments of the plot. But on the whole: too many separate, side stories which maybe makes reading interesting but it loses integrity of the story...Some people are really bizarre and their connection to the story is under question.

Too many different topics that could be developed into separate stories. But it is too much of a chaos here, his ambition to touch on too many things at once is failed and made the book " too heavy".

Susanna Rautio says

Susanin vaikutuksessa Peter Høeg on löytänyt vaikutusvallalle kiinnostavan muodon: Susan saa ihmiset avautumaan estottomasti. Avatumisista seuraa monia huvittomia hetkiä, mutta se on myös valtava erityislahja, joka pelastaa Susanin perheen perikadolta.

Hauskuudesta huolimatta Susanin vaikutus ei ole mikään hilpeä kirja. Se on itse asiassa dystopia eli kuvaus ei-toivotusta yhteiskunnasta. Siihen meidät ajavat oraakkeliennustukset, tieteen väärinkäyttö ja etiikasta piittaamattomien salaseurat.

Susanin vaikutus oli elämäni ensimmäinen Peter Høeg, jonka seurassa viihdyin. Ja olen sentään jo aika monta lukenut. Ehkä olisin voinut antaa neljäkin tähteä, mutta ihan niin pitkälle en vielä heltynyt. Tämä siksi, että minusta Høegin tarinoista katoaa loppua kohti viehätys, kun tärkeintä on vain vauhti.

Lisää ajatuksia Susanin vaikutuksesta löytyy blogistani <http://keltainenkirjasto.blogspot.fi/...>

Suketus says

Vauhdikas trilleri ja samalla synkkä dystopia (vaiko jo monin osin totta...) Kirjan luki ahmaisemalla, ja se tarjosi hyvän lukukokemuksen.

Marina Sofia says

I loved the premise of this and the frankly quite unlikable characters, which felt like they were a satire of present-day self absorption and lack of connection. And of course Susan gets people to talk instead of just staring at their mobile phones - which is a pleasing conceit. And you can't fault Hoeg for lack of pacing or revealing an intriguing mystery.

It does go off track at the end - bit too much of a conspiracy theory for something that is not all that surprising or shocking, even a little silly.

William says

Jeez. Megalomania detached from reality. The author should seek professional help.

The "special ability" of Susan is quite intriguing...

If only (genius) Claire North had written this book, instead of Høeg ! Wow!

As usual with my reviews, please first read the publisher's blurb/summary of the book. Thank you.

By far the most irritating thing about this book is the author has a complete and utter disrespect of science and natural laws. Truly insulting.

*Truth is to "truthiness"
as Science is to This Book.
(apologies to Stephen Colbert)*

The characters are unsympathetic, pedantic and speak with almost entirely the same voice as Susan. Yeesh.

One thing Høeg gets right is how we are raping the planet, faster every day, and are unable to stop. Of course, there are a million other writers and journalists with the same themes.

Our point of departure was a hundred global risks, divided into six categories: economics, environment, geopolitics, society, technology, global resources. We picked out five main issues: chronic financial imbalances, greenhouse gas emissions, unsustainable population growth, extreme income inequality and a shortage of resources that would give rise to highly volatile prices for energy and agricultural products. ... The collapse isn't some far-off future. It's already started.

Mixed into this train wreck of a book are some fine quotes:

- *"When I was twelve someone showed me the periodic table and I understood it immediately. It was the happiest moment of my life."*
- *"Sometimes recognition has nothing to do with having seen each other before. Sometimes, as then, it is a sombre feeling of falling victim to an inexplicable and already existing intimacy, the origins of which cannot be pinpointed."*
- *"That's the problem of physics. It's always been financed like this. That's what Fermi meant when he said that regardless of what else the atom bomb might be, it was great physics."*
- *"That's how it is with the great traumas. We keep returning to them. To remind ourselves of how irrevocably too late it is to do anything about them. And yet also to continue looking for some way out."*
- *"Thit's relationship to make-up is hard to explain. It's passionate, but also exotic. She daubs it on the same way she dresses: extravagantly, especially around the eyes, as if bent on demonstrating that, to her, every*

day is a celebration of Cleopatra's ascension to the throne."

- *"Great men always have formidable wives. The weightiest Nobel laureates have always had an Amazon at their side: Bohr, Fermi, Alvarez, Gorbachev, Sakharov, Schrödinger. And those who didn't quite make the final cut were those whose women backed out: Oppenheimer, Szilard."*

- *"For a brief, fleeting second, I may even understand what he means. That's one of the inherent potentials of honesty – that for a moment another person may reveal to us a true mirror image of ourselves."*

I agree 100% ...

"She thought Reagan's advisers, Perle and Cheney, ought to have been tried for crimes against humanity."

Something magical happens starting around 48-50% through the book, mainly from the start of Christmas dinner. Pedantic science is transformed into romantic metaphor, truth becomes personal, a painful event of Susan's past is explained, and the reality of Susan and Laban's courtship is shown. Marvellous, mostly.

Sadly this doesn't last. :(

So much stupid "science". Makes my head spin. The tracking device, the spy camera, the use of the word "quantum", the pride in which Susan spouts complete gobble-de-gook as if Høeg understands this in the slightest. Ugh, what a dork.

Cute homage? **"Get Smart" (tv show) Cone of Silence ?**

In the middle of the room is what looks like a large bubble of clear plastic.

... utter crap ...

"A mere five kilograms. Twelve hundred needle rounds a minute and enough muzzle velocity for an adult torso to be torn open by the mere thrust of a single projectile passing by at twenty centimetres. Not only did I design and construct it, I can also hit thirty out of thirty-five moving targets in a minute and a half, at a range of eight hundred and fifty metres."

... Super STUPID. One cubic metre of helium lifts about 1 kilogram. So Høeg's balloon could only lift 100 kg. This stupidity will never fly.

"At close quarters the balloon doesn't look like a balloon at all, more like a modern art installation. The buoyancy element itself comprises at most 100 cubic metres, harnessed within a lightweight metal framework that moreover holds the sail, a thirty-metre-tall construction of ..."

And finally, a Trumpian level of stupidity here -

"We would have set up a magnificent laboratory, you and I. Even the collider was going with us. I'd drawn up plans for a small electricity station. Fifty megawatts of hydraulic power."

So much potential in this book, some fine moments, but mostly drowning in technobabble and megalomania.

And the "James Bond" ending was laughably bad.

Ugh.

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In addition, there are quite a few "translation failures" from the Danish to English.

... translation failure: "My guess is it saves images and sound for no more than a few minutes, before *compromising* them and sending them as a very short signal."

Use: Compressing!

Thit's Indian lover is called a "priest" in this translation. I would suggest "guru" or other more Indian equivalent.

... magnetic barriers?

"There are security checks," I tell him. "I've seen it on TV. At the entrance to the Folketing. Magnetic barriers, like at the airport. Guards round the clock."

... about 1/3 of the book is filled with crap like this:

"Somewhere behind it I can hear the sound of a washing machine.... I can identify it as an industrial model with a digital inverter."

Notes while reading:

3.0% "... choppy writing style in the NetGalley preview"

4.0% "... "When I was twelve someone showed me the periodic table and I understood it immediately. It was the happiest moment of my life.""

5.0% "... "The pizza base, so thin it's no longer bread, just an intense taste of grain from the Italian flour, an ethereal crispness beneath the stable-like aroma of melted cheese, the tartness and sweetness of scalding-hot tomatoes and the corpulent bitterness of olives.""

6.0% ".... LOTS of lovely quotes, already

"Sometimes recognition has nothing to do with having seen each other before. Sometimes, as then, it is a sombre feeling of falling victim to an inexplicable and already existing intimacy, the origins of which cannot be pinpointed.""

8.0% "... "That's the problem of physics. It's always been financed like this. That's what Fermi meant when he said that regardless of what else the atom bomb might be, it was great physics.""

9.0% "... "That's how it is with the great traumas. We keep returning to them. To remind ourselves of how irrevocably too late it is to do anything about them. And yet also to continue looking for some way out.""

16.0% ".... "Thit's relationship to make-up is hard to explain. It's passionate, but also exotic. She daubs it on the same way she dresses: extravagantly, especially around the eyes, as if bent on demonstrating that, to her, every day is a celebration of Cleopatra's ascension to the throne.""

19.0% "... translation failure: "My guess is it saves images and sound for no more than a few minutes, before compromising them and sending them as a very short signal."
Compressing!"

20.0% "... Peter Hoeg is certainly enthusiastic about his science, and his protagonist, Susan, waxes eloquent describing the world "scientifically" but often erroneously. Strange."

23.0% "... Thit's Indian lover is called a "priest" in this translation. I would suggest "guru" or other more Indian equivalent."

25.0% "... "Great men always have formidable wives. The weightiest Nobel laureates have always had an Amazon at their side: Bohr, Fermi, Alvarez, Gorbachev, Sakharov, Schrödinger. And those who didn't quite make the final cut were those whose women backed out: Oppenheimer, Szilard.'"

27.0% "... Hoeg's understanding of computer tech and electronics is laughably bad. Almost insulting to the reader to be so precise in descriptions which are ridiculous"

28.0% "... The cod-science is laughably bad in far too many places. There's no need for "scientific plot explanations" that are bad science."

39.0% "... about 1/3 of the book is filled with crap like this:
"Somewhere behind it I can hear the sound of a washing machine.... I can identify it as an industrial model with a digital inverter.'"

40.0% "....
Truth is to "truthiness" (apologies to Stephen Colbert)
as science is to This Book."

41.0% "... just so you know...
The discussion of Thit's and Harald's religious inclinations is hilarious. What a fun name for a kitten "Holy Spirit'"

42.0% "... "If you're dead lucky you might just be able to shield your kids from assault and abuse. But you can't shield them from the real problem. Because the real problem is life itself.'"

43.0% "... magnetic barriers?
"“There are security checks,’ I tell him. ‘I’ve seen it on TV. At the entrance to the Folketing. Magnetic barriers, like at the airport. Guards round the clock.’"

54.0% "... something magical happens starting around 48-50% through the book, mainly from the start of Christmas dinner. Pedantic science is transformed into romantic metaphor, truth becomes personal, a painful event of Susan's past is explained, and the reality of Susan and Laban's courtship is shown. Marvellous, mostly. Sadly this doesn't last."

59.0% "... same as my list, almost exactly
"Our point of departure was a hundred global risks, divided into six categories: economics, environment, geopolitics, society, technology, global resources. five main issues: chronic financial imbalances, greenhouse gas emissions, unsustainable population growth, extreme income inequality and a shortage of resources that would give rise to highly volatile prices for energy & food"

63.0% "... Get Smart Cone of Silence....
"In the middle of the room is what looks like a large bubble of clear plastic.'"

66.0% ".... Edge, not incision
"“A grafting knife,’ he says. ‘The incision has to be precise.’"

80.0% "... utter crap ...

““A mere five kilograms. Twelve hundred needle rounds a minute and enough muzzle velocity for an adult torso to be torn open by the mere thrust of a single projectile passing by at twenty centimetres. Not only did I design and construct it, I can also hit thirty out of thirty-five moving targets in a minute and a half, at a range of eight hundred and fifty metres.””

81.0% "... I agree 100% ...

“She thought Reagan’s advisers, Perle and Cheney, ought to have been tried for crimes against humanity.””

90.0% ".... “For a brief, fleeting second, I may even understand what he means. That’s one of the inherent potentials of honesty – that for a moment another person may reveal to us a true mirror image of ourselves.””

93.0% "... STUPID. One cubic metre of helium lifts about 1 kilogram. So this ballon stupidity will never fly. “At close quarters the balloon doesn’t look like a balloon at all, more like a modern art installation. The buoyancy element itself comprises at most 100 cubic metres, harnessed within a lightweight metal framework that moreover holds the sail, a thirty-metre-tall construction of ...””

96.0% ".... Jeez. Megalomania detached from reality. The author should seek professional help."

99.0% ".... Trumpian level of stupidity here -

“We would have set up a magnificent laboratory, you and I. Even the collider was going with us. I’d drawn up plans for a small electricity station. Fifty megawatts of hydraulic power.””

Katja Tormanen says

I have enjoyed the earlier Hoeg books, and I really liked the first 3/4 of this book, too. After that I felt there was too much going on, new characters coming and having a major role in the story - but I admit I might not be clever enough to get everything that was going on in the book ;) I quite like the superwoman like main character (typical in a way to Hoeg) who gets away with everything and especially I liked the very ordinary old neighbour lady who turns out to get surprised by nothing and helps this wonder family when they most need it. However, at some point I think too much is too much, and this supering began to be annoying. Interesting thoughts rose up with it, though: how far would I go, if my family and children were really threatened?

Keith Currie says

Miss Susan’s feeling for empathy

I really liked Miss Smilla’s Feeling for Snow, so I really liked this. Why? Because it follows a very similar narrative arc. Imagine a Smilla who is a married mother in her early 40s and you have Susan. Like Smilla, Susan has a gift; when people are with her, they cannot help but confess the truth and reveal their feelings. Her talented, difficult family, composer husband, 16 years old twin boy and girl, also have gifts and together they fight an anarchic war against the entrenched plots of an establishment conspiracy.

Even if the plot is tosh (and all the science), this is so well written, remaining just on the right side of

plausibility (only just!), so suffused with verve, energy and imagination that it charmed me utterly. I loved the characterisation, especially of Susan's apparently dysfunctional family. I loved the very clever and witty narrative, Susan's own acerbic repartee, the unravelling of the labyrinthine plot. A pleasurable aspect of the novel, also, is the picture drawn of Copenhagen, a city which is almost a character in itself, and which the author portrays with great affection. Thank you Mr Hoeg.

Koen De Feyter says

Ooit de scene gezien uit Kill Bill, part 1, waarin Uma Thurman het hol van O-Ren Ishii binnenvalt ?
En ? Wat vond je daar van ? Vond je het ook zo overdreven dat het op den duur keigrappig werd ?
Wel, das hetzelfde effect als wat dit boek op mij had : keisnel, overdreven, onwaarschijnlijk, fantastisch !
Lezen, doen !

Ari says

Peter Hoeg did not fail me. He usually doesn't.

Once again this was a book you must read with one go. Thrilling, interesting, compelling, complex... and all that in a very entertaining format. Let alone the topical dystopia message which was in the essence of the adventurous conspiracy story.

I hope readers will see that the forecasts made by the fictious "future fellowship" are absolutely relevant in our world today. Prophecies in their own right. Anybody can see and nobody does anything truly relevant about the big issues.

Even the conspiracy (or more) may be reality in some countries, the Noah's Ark for elite. It would be childish to think that nobody nowhere has plans for the upcoming times when societies collapse due the population explosion, famine, pollution and the huge unfair distiction between the rich and the poor.

The novel may be a prophecy in itself. Except for the quite happy ending perhaps.

Jürgen Zeller says

Mein erstes Buch vom bekannten Schriftsteller Peter Hoeg das den Weg in meine kleine Bibliothek gefunden hat. Seinen Weltbestseller "Fräulein Smillas Gespür für Schnee" kenne ich nur vom Namen her, habe ich aber nicht gelesen. Entsprechend gespannt war ich auf die literarischer Kost die mich da erwartet. Schnell habe ich gemerkt, dass dies kein Buch ist das sich eben Mal an zwei oder drei Abenden entspannt weglesen lässt. Dieser Spannungsroman braucht den auch die ungeteilte Aufmerksamkeit der Leserschaft aber wenn man sich einmal mit Peter Hoegs Schreibweise und seiner eigentümlichen aber höchst intelligenten Art des Erzählens vertraut gemacht hat und weiss, wie man die Abschnitte und Kapitel anzugehen hat, kommt man von Seite zu Seite immer besser damit zurecht und sich ganz dem Inhalt widmen.

Die titelgebende Susan ist Experimentalphysikerin, 42 Jahre alt und lebt in Dänemark. Sie hat die Gabe, dass

sich die Menschen ihr gegenüber öffnen. Diese ungewollte Fähigkeit gepaart mit ihrem scharfen Verstand machen sie für wissenschaftliche Ausschüsse interessant. Eine Zukunftskommission arbeitet für die Regierung aber Mitglieder dieses kleinen aber erlesenen Zirkels kommen ums Leben. Die begabte Susan wird in einen gefährlichen Strudel, in dem auch ihr Familienleben eine Rolle spielt, hineingezogen und es entstehen wohl durchdachte Szenen voller mehrdeutige Schattierungen. Der Autor versucht Spannung, Wissenschaft und Familienleben unter einen Hut bzw. zwischen zwei Buchdeckel zu bringen. Meiner Meinung nach, erreicht er seine angestrebten Ziele in den meisten Fällen aber längst nicht immer. Oder ich war den inhaltlichen Anspielungen, die manchmal überflüssig wirkten, schlicht und einfach nicht immer gewachsen.

Ein Pageturner, wie die Kurzbeschreibung / der Klappentext es erwähnt, war dieses Buch für mich nicht. Eher ein tiefgründiges Werk mit teils verwirrenden Passagen die die volle Konzentration erfordern. Ein gutes Buch das mich etwas mehr als eine Woche beschäftigt hat, was bei mir für einen Roman eine lange Zeit ist, aber für mich gehört es dennoch nicht in die Fünf-Sterne Kategorie. Empfehlenswert für Leser mit einer Affinität zur Wissenschaft und Physik, die einen anspruchsvollen Roman mit vielen Verweisen auf das Leben aber einer unterkühlten, eher kopflastigen Schreibweise mögen.

Denisa T. says

Podobnost se sle?nou Smillou se nezap?e - silná a trochu podivná hlavní hrdinka, ak?ní st?ídání prostor?, pr?b?žné retrospektivy, vše oko?en?né poznatky z fyziky. Téma zdánlivé konspirace, ve skute?nosti blížící se ekologické katastrofy a pádu evropských demokracií. Naplní se? A kdo za tím vším nakonec stojí? A už jste slyšela o Komisi pro budoucnost .)?

Linnea says

Susanin vaikutus oli epämiellyttävyydessään kiehtova ja paikoin danbrownmaisessa uskottavuudessaan huvittava. Taustalla kuitenkin kiinnostavia teemoja ja teksti sen verran vetävää, että teos tuli ahmittua päivässä. Ei varmaan hassumpi tapa korkata Høegin tuotanto.

miss.mesmerized mesmerized says

Susan Svendsen is everything but an ordinary woman. And she and her family are in danger. She is offered a bad deal by the Danish government: use her special ability to provide them with an important information to have all charges against her dropped. Thinking of her twin kids, she has to agree and thus brings herself and her family even more in danger. But what is it about her gift? In Susan's presence, everybody feels relaxed and comfortable, people cannot keep from sharing their best concealed secrets with her and she is to exploits this for the government. But the politicians have not counted on her intelligence and survival instinct and a most unfair battle begins.

Peter Høeg has made special women his protagonist before. Individuals with a supernatural sense and an extraordinary will to survive. In his latest novel, Susan is equipped with a skill that allows her to manipulate the people unperceivably which in itself is quite remarkable. But what make the character even more interesting is the combination with a straight down-to-earth intellect which does not accept anything outside

the world of natural sciences. Susan can explain anything with her knowledge of physics and chemistry or biology, other fields such as music or religion just don't reach her. This makes her contradictory and ambiguous in a very fascinating way.

The story itself is a fast-paced thriller which combines political complotting with action-packed chases and quite high number of cruel murders. However, the author never forgets his characters and their complicated relationships. The emotional facet blends in smoothly and thus adds to the cleverly constructed plot.

Underlying the whole story is a scenario which nowadays might still be considered something of the faraway future: parts of the planet will not be inhabitable due to climate change. How will we, how will our politicians react to this? If just a limited number of persons can be saved, who will be the selected few? As in other novels before, Høeg creates an extreme setting in which his characters are brought to the edge and have to make hard decisions, decisions about life and death. It seems to be a topic he liked, to play with how human being react in extreme situations. Thus, he provides us with the opportunity to think it through ourselves. Definitely a thriller with a lot of food for thought.

Eliska says

Trocha Smilly, trocha D?tí chovatel? slon?, brutalita ze severské krimi, pá?idlo, které otev?e každou p?ekážku a poslouží k obran? p?ed kýmkoliv, utajování, konspirace, trocha zvláštních schopností a obrovská spousta náhod ?i jakýchsi neuv?itelných ?ešení. K tomu hromada postav, které se mihnou d?jem, nebo se záhadn? objeví, je tam i trocha humoru a hlavní myšlenka celého díla je ur?it? dobrá, ale jako celek to p?sobí tak n?jak neuspo?ádan? a p?ekombinovan? a není to uv?itelné.

Paromjit says

This is an intense and thrilling dystopian crime fiction from Peter Hoeg, set in Copenhagen, Denmark. Susan, and husband, Laban and their twin 16 year old children, Harald and Thit have spent a year in India and every single one of them is in serious trouble. To avoid prison and other charges, Thorkeld Hegn, an extremely powerful man, offers to make all their troubles disappear if Susan will do him a favour. They return to Copenhagen and their family home, and Susan who has a gift for making those around talk without people being able to avoid it, visits Magrethe Spliid to get her hands on missing minutes of meetings of a powerful and under the radar group, The Future Commission, and identify members of the group for Hegn. Susan has used and abused her gift in the past, and her entire family have similar aspects of this gift. She is a notable Physics Professor, and sees the whole world through the lens of science and Physics in particular such as cooking and relationships, a fascinating approach. She sees troubling issues and problems as koans until they dissolve.

There are two timelines in the novel, in the present where Susan and her family find themselves in dire circumstances being spied on and having attempts made on their lives. There are forces that do not wish the Future Commission and its doings be accessed and are willing to be ruthless in their efforts to pursue this aim. We are then given information about Susan's past, her connections with the Nobel prize winning Andrea Fink through whom she met her composer husband, Laban, and other events in her life. The gifted members of the Future Commission, all of whom are wealthy, are being murdered in horrendous ways, such as within

a washing machine. With Susan's entire family under threat, Susan digs deep and resolves to protect her children, irrespective of the cost to her. The gifted family's talents get them access to almost anywhere. As they become aware of the turbulent future forecast that threatens the entire nation, Susan finds herself confronted with her past and her family in the battle to survive.

Not everyone will be comfortable with reading a book that is firmly located within a scientific framework. I found it an absorbing, engaging and compelling read. The character of Susan is not always likeable but she is a charismatic, determined and inherently mesmerising, you never know exactly what she or her family will do, or come up with. Susan carries a crowbar with her as her weapon of choice, and even saves the life of a man colluding with keeping the family interned. It is wonderful to have Peter Hoeg writing again, tackling huge global themes which are likely to lead to the dystopian future that he imagines here. A superb read that I recommend highly. Thanks to Random House Vintage for an ARC.
