

→ Susan: All through my sophomore year in high school, I was in love with a boy and we were sleeping together in the back seat of his car. He was the captain of the football team and I was only a sophomore. Sometimes when my folks weren't home, we would make it on the couch, so one time toward the end of the summer after his senior year, he came by when nobody was home. I could smell beer on him, but I couldn't do what he wanted. He asked me to take off all my clothes and went to a kitchen cabinet and came back with the butter dish. "I'm gonna cover you with butter, Susan," he said. He moved his hands real slow and soft, butter over every part of me. Then he said, "Bye-bye," and went out the door, and I remember thinking, "What is this to do to the future Homecoming Queen?" and found out the next day how he'd had his first date with a new girl that night. My father had a gun. So I waited in a little park across the street from this boy's house, and when he showed I went over and said to him, "Look what I got." "What?" he said. I waved it. "Wow," he said. "That's right," I told him. And there was this Mickey Spillane book called *Vengeance Is Mine* I had just read, so I said, "Vengeance is mine." "I got a full scholarship for football, Susan," he said. "It's a Big Ten school." And I shot him. I didn't know you could be shot and not die, so I didn't shoot him any more. I just walked away. He lived and went on to play Big Ten football after a year delay. It's somethin', though, how once you shoot a man, they're none of them the same any more, and you know how easy, if you got a gun, they fall down. Y →
wanna go out, get somethin' to eat? I'm gonna go over to Bookbinder's and get myself an elaborate meal.

Chrissy: I bet you're a Leo in astrology. When were you born?

Susan: July.