

The Detroit Free Press  
DETROIT, MICH.  
D. 656,477 S. 747,268  
SAT. 600,889

JUN 19 1988

**BURRELLE'S**

# Endearing pair share sexy secret

## HERB 'N' LORNA

By Eric Kraft

Crown Publishers, 310 pages, \$17.95

Review by Barbara Holliday

Herb and Lorna are cozy, cuddly and endearing, permanently — and lustfully — in love. They are known to their devoted grandson, narrator Peter Leroy (from that series of inventive short novels also by Eric Kraft) as Gumma and Guppa.

But Herb 'n' Lorna have a secret life; unbeknownst to each other they create animated erotic jewelry on consignment from their respective uncles. Herb sells the "coarse goods" along with his five-foot shelf of self-improvement books.

Leroy recounts their story. After World War I, Herb and Lorna marry, and Herb becomes a crack Studebaker salesman for an agency in Babbington, Long Island, where he and Lorna settle into a little stucco house and raise their family. But the coarse goods see them through the ups-and-downs and finally the Studebaker's lamented demise.

The couple has moved to a retirement community in Florida before each discovers the other's secret. It is such a rejuvenation for them that they remind us of those gentle, lively folks in the movie "Cocoon" — except "Cocoon" wasn't X-rated.

Still, this is such an amusing, affectionate and artfully whimsical little novel that it restores the blush of youth even as it humorously caroms through a carnival of American culture.

*Barbara Holliday is a retired*