

## Ordinary love

**Herb N' Lorna**, by Eric Kraft (352 pages; Crown Publishers; \$17.95)

In Eric Kraft's latest effort, **Peter Leroy**, hero of his ongoing serial novel *The Personal History, Adventures, Experiences and Observations of Peter Leroy* returns to narrate the story of his grandparent's love.

It is at his grandmother's funeral that Peter is compelled to take up his grandparent's story. There he is given a box of very intricately crafted erotic jewelry and a note acknowledging their lifelong involvement in making such things.

The focus of the novel, however, is not simply limited to this revelation. Instead, what Kraft has written is a great story of a lifelong love affair that illuminates the lives of two rather ordinary Americans. Their making of erotic jewelry is counterpoint to and mirror of the relationship that they spend a lifetime crafting and polishing.

Kraft is a very fine writer, and *Herb N' Lorna* is a beautiful book that shines with affection and crackles with good writing. At the end of it, Herb and Lorna have become as liked and familiar as the most happily married couple we know.—Marc Munroe Dion