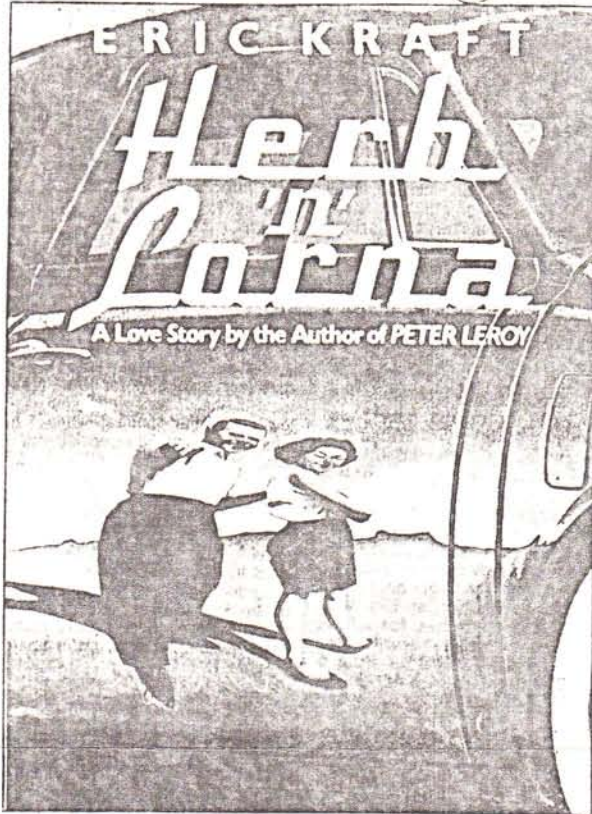


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Jacket design for "Herb 'N' Lorna."

An engaging story of senior citizen love

By SUSAN L. SPRAGUE
Staff Writer

What makes a great love story? Tragedy, if you adhere to the writings of Shakespeare and today's soap operas. But "Herb 'N' Lorna" is no tale of Romeo and Juliet, or fare from "General Hospital" or "The Young and the Restless".

In his second book, Peter Kraft offers his version of great love: a whimsical, engaging tale of a sexy couple who also happen to be grandparents.

Senior citizen lust? You bet. These are the grandparents of Peter Leroy, who is the main character of Kraft's critically acclaimed serial novel, "The Personal History, Adventures, Experiences and Observations of Peter Leroy."

As "Herb 'N' Lorna" opens, Herb is dead and Lorna has just died, leaving their only grandchild a box containing 22 pieces of jewelry — each a mechanized, miniature piece of erotica — and a note acknowledging the couple's lifelong involvement in erotic arts and crafts.

HAS KRAFT got your attention yet? The unlikely premise of this book is a real grabber, and once Kraft gets hold of his audience, he doesn't let go. Amazed by the

IN REVIEW

"HERB 'N' LORNA" by Eric Kraft, Crown Publishers, \$17.95, 52 pp.

realization that his grandparents were real people, and sexy ones, at that, Peter goes in search of their true story.

With warmth, humor, affection, and some graphic sexual descriptions, he leads us through their courtship, marriage, and experiences in the world of erotic jewelry.

This book is not for the prude or proper. It is bawdy, raunchy, and warm. But it is great fun for those who want something different, and someday may enjoy the cult following that is associated with Kraft's first novel.

The message Herb and Lorna gently offer is a simple one, but one that most of us understand only with maturity: that it takes all kinds of people to make a world, and that it is best to accept them, despite all their flaws and foibles — and to simply love and enjoy them — just as they are.

Susan Sprague is a Times copy editor.