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over their sense
they manage to learn some things from each
other, which is maybe all that should be
expected. A very interesting read.

ERIC KRAFT'S *The Personal History, Adventures, Experiences & Observations of Peter Leroy* is one of the biggest, funniest, sweetest and looniest undertakings in contemporary American fiction. What began years ago as a serial of nine hilarious novellas (later collected under one roof as *Little Follies*) about young Leroy and the Long Island coastal town of Babbington has kept evolving, adding layers of narrative and meta-narrative through numerous novels, reaching tentacles out from Babbington to Boston and Miami, metastasizing until it's taken over the lives of a whole galaxy of characters, including the author himself, and blurred the lines between fiction and nonfiction. "Like the ingredients in a good clam chowder," Kraft writes, "each piece of this work is intended to contribute its individual flavor and texture to a single savory dish." (Kraft, like most of his Babbingtonians, has a thing about clam chowder, and clams in general. One of the original Leroy novellas went by the unforgettable title *Do Clams Bite?*)

Showing what the Internet is good for, there's now an excellent website charting the whole Peter Leroy galaxy, <http://members.aol.com/leroy peter>. And to entice readers back on a regular basis, Kraft's begun serializing his latest Leroy novel, *Inflating a Dog*—as usual, there's a funny and unexpected explanation for the title—on the site, putting up a chapter a week.

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