

Santa Cruz Sentinel

AFTERNOON AND SUNDAY

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Enclosed are two copies of a book review published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

PETER LEROY, A Serial Novel, by Eric Kraft, Apple-wood Books — Every three months, Eric Kraft has had published one of his PETER LEROY installments. First came "My Mother Takes a Tumble" followed by "Do Clams Bite?" "Life on the Bolotomy" and "The Static of the Spheres."

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Following the Dylan Thomas recipe, "the memories of childhood have no order, and no end. . ." Eric Kraft has written a Proustian account of the life of Peter Leroy whose fears of growing up are universal in feeling but individual in the specific details of the novel. To further compare Kraft's work and Proust's, two of the LEROY characters are called, separately, Albertine and Madaleine.

The short, not-more-than-100-page, novels have no chronological order but are scattered memories that are more fictitious than factual. Kraft has an older Peter Leroy introduce and preface each of the novels for coherence's sake.

The level of humor is very underground. Parody and satire vie for precedence over slaptstick and trippy language.

The PETER LEROY serial novel is a unique addition to American letters — an addition that reaffirms the vitality of our

own authors in a world of throw-away literature. For readers who enjoy cud-chewing memories with an unusual flair, (and Kraft has a very unique ability to translate his memories into fiction,) PETER LEROY will have an appeal that tickles the literary ear as well as the inner soul of the forever-growing-up child in each of us.

—C.W.