Booklist March 15, 1988

Kraft, Eric. Herb 'n' Lorna: a love story. Apr. 1988. 311p. Crown, \$17.95 (0-517-55941-2). Galley.

The author of The Personal History, Adventures, Experiences and Observations of Peter Leroy (Booklist 79:1188 My 15 83) brings Leroy back as the biographer of his grandparents, Herb and Lorna Piper. Herb and Lorna meet in Chacallit, New York; marry shortly after World War I; make a home in Babbington, on Long Island, where Herb sells Studebakers; have a child, retire to Florida-ordinary lives. But Herb and Lorna have secret lives as well. Each, unknown to the other, is involved in the "coarse goods" (erotic jewelry) trade. Lorna is an artist who carves the figures, and Herb is first a salesman and then the inventor of the mechanisms that animate Lorna's designs. Kraft uses Herb and Lorna's story to show that even the most commonplace lives are full of surprises. This is a warm, inventive novel whose quirky humor and typically American optimism should delight many readers. MEQ. (CIP) 57-22163