

Nashville, TN
Nashville Scene
Nashville
Met Area

Thursday

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LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS

Voluminous

Summer's sizzling reads

Herb 'n' Loma, by Eric Kraft (Picador, \$13 paperback)

One of the undiscovered gems of recent American fiction: a romance of uncommon ten-

derness and complexity, a work of prodigious comic invention—and a damn sexy book. Some two decades ago, a boy named Peter Leroy appeared in a daydream to novelist Eric Kraft. Around him Kraft invented the fictitious Long Island town of Babbington (“Clam Capitol of the World”), a world of seafood obsessions, amorous twins, rascally childhood pals, and brilliant pop-culture pastiches that cross from Americana into erotica.

Part Booth Tarkington, part Philip Roth, equal parts Proust and *Scientific American*, Kraft's greatest novel concerns Peter's grandparents, a seemingly bland suburban couple who led a secret life as the nation's premier artisans of “animated erotic jewelry.” Enjoy the book for its kaleidoscopic detail and its laugh-out-loud parodies of historical writing, old radio shows, and science magazines—or simply enjoy the rare love story that affirms the pleasures of married life and a healthy sexual curiosity. (JR)