

Reviews

It Crumbles

HARRY & DAVID
COLLECTED COOKIES
LEXISNEXIS (2004)

Al Dente

We must report that, although Mr. Dente's review is not entirely positive, the box he returned to us was entirely empty. It appears that his palate was not so offended that it prevented him from putting this publication to its intended use.

– *The Editors*

FROM ITS RED COVER, the volume looks inviting. The publisher is LexisNexis, and the title is "Cookies." Finally! A much-needed, long-overdue examination of the privacy issues raised by those annoying bits of computer code, called cookies, that allow unseen forces to track one's Internet meanderings.

Unfortunately, disappointment begins the moment one opens the tome. It is not a book at all; it is a box of cookies – the baked variety – disguised as a law book. A helpful note inside indicates the cookies are a gift from LexisNexis, by way of Harry and David – the long-dead fruit entrepreneurs from Oregon.

LexisNexis sends these volumes along to



Al Dente is the pseudonym of a Washington, D.C.-based legal writer and restaurant critic who strives to write about food and the law in the same article whenever possible.

authors it has published, and presumably other people it wants to thank. Since your loyal reviewer is in neither position, I can critique the offering without fear of seeming ungrateful.

Not to make too much of it, but the cookies were awful. They were those small, crumbly-dry, chemical-sweet numbers that seem light-years away from home-baked. Chocolate chip cookies with seemingly pseudo-chocolate

chips; all-chocolate cookies flavored, it seemed, by all the tropical oils we should not eat. The shortbread was passable, but barely so. These cookies were as fake as the volume they arrived in.

So, LexisNexis, next time you think about how to thank your favorite authors, check a different box in the Harry and David catalog. Better yet, send along a real book instead – or how about some real money? 