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Fiction from Brown, Bussi, Deaver, and Leigh, plus a Trio of Debuts | Xpress Reviews

BY LJ REVIEWS ON MARCH 1, 2018 [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Week ending March 2, 2018

Beck, Peter. **Damnation**. Point Blank: Oneworld. Apr. 2018. 480p. tr. from German by Jamie Bulloch. ISBN 9781786073273. \$24.99; ebk. ISBN 9781786073266. F

[**DEBUT**] Tom Winter heads security for a private Swiss bank with wealthy Middle Eastern clients. When his associate and lover and an important Saudi client die in a helicopter crash in the Alps, he quickly determines that they were murdered. Later, Winter and the Saudi's twin are attacked, but Winter manages to kill four assailants. It's increasingly clear that there is a mole at the bank, part of an international plot to get into a highly secure data center beneath a mountain in order to disrupt world financial markets. He teams up with a beautiful Egyptian CEO and they travel to Norway and the United States seeking to unravel this threat. Back in the Alps near the end, he manages a literal cliff-hanger while trying to defuse a bomb.

Verdict Making his English-language debut, Beck has a doctorate in psychology, an MBA, and corporate experience to go with a judo black belt. This is the first in a projected series featuring Tom Winter. Although the book is too long and wordy, the action is fast-paced, the high-finance dealings ring true, and Winter is an impressively modern Bond figure.—Roland Person, formerly with Southern Illinois Univ. Lib., Carbondale

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