

NUMBERED ACCOUNT Christopher Reich (*Delacorte Press, \$24.95*) A workmanlike thriller, featuring two timely villains: a Middle East terrorist who uses drug money to finance his war against Israel and the corrupt Swiss bank that launders his loot. Nick Neumann, an employee at the bank and an ex-Marine, isn't concerned with advancing his career—he just wants to find out why his father was murdered 17 years ago. The trail leads him into a swirling conspiracy involving corporate takeovers, amoral financiers, a heroin shipment, and a nuclear device. Reich's prose is serviceable and his hero's partial victory convincing, making this genre entry slightly less anonymous than the numbered account of the title. **C**

—Michael Giltz