

# Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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★ **All I Love and Know.**

Frank, Judith (Author)

Jul 2014. 432 p. Morrow, hardcover, \$26.99. (9780062302878). Morrow, e-book, (9780062302885).

This beautiful novel is old-fashioned in its approach, taking its sweet time to tell a tender love story between two flawed, good-hearted people, and yet it feels wholly fresh. Stylish graphic-designer Matthew Greene and cerebral magazine editor Daniel Rosen have made a quiet life for themselves in Northampton, Massachusetts. But that all changes when Daniel's twin brother and his wife are killed in a terrorist bombing in Jerusalem. They leave behind two children, irrepressible six-year-old Gal and baby Noam. Daniel has been named the children's guardian, much to the consternation of his parents and his brother's in-laws, who are Holocaust survivors and Israeli citizens. As Daniel, numb with grief, deals with the funeral arrangements and the Israeli courts, where his guardianship is being contested, Matthew struggles with the responsibilities of instant parenthood and the fact that his lover and best friend seems entirely changed. In her second novel (after *Crybaby Butch*, 2004), Frank not only explores the complexities of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict but also presents the difficulties gay partners face in navigating the court system. Above all, though, this is a compassionate, utterly compelling story of how family members, torn apart by tragedy, must reach deep within themselves to meet their greatest challenge.

— *Joanne Wilkinson*

