



Like Normal People

Karen E. Bender

Download now

Read Online [➔](#)

Like Normal People

Karen E. Bender

Like Normal People Karen E. Bender

A Los Angeles Times bestseller and one of the Washington Post's best books of the year, **LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE** charts the lives of "three richly textured characters whose irreducible idiosyncrasies, griefs, longings, and loves will surely expand our sense of what it means to be like normal people" (Chicago Tribune). The story of this family revolves around an off-kilter center: Lena, who is forty-eight years old but mentally locked in childhood. Following Lena's escape from her residential home with her troubled twelve-year-old niece and her widowed mother's search for them, Karen Bender moves deftly between past and present, through three entire lifetimes in a single day, as each character searches for love and acceptance in a world where normalcy is elusive. "Poignantly and brilliantly portrayed" (TimeOut New York), **LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE** is a hilarious, heartbreaking, unforgettable family drama that resonates long after the last page is turned.

Like Normal People Details

Date : Published April 15th 2001 by Mariner Books (first published April 1st 2000)

ISBN : 9780618126927

Author : Karen E. Bender

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Fiction, Novels

 [Download Like Normal People ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Like Normal People ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Like Normal People Karen E. Bender

From Reader Review Like Normal People for online ebook

Kimberly says

This book took up most of my weekend. I loved the authors way of describing the light, " The dark air astonished her, for she had never precisely seen it before. It was the color of deep sapphire and beneath it the sand and water and trash cans were radiant and pure. "

This is mostly the story of a mother's love and how her perception changes as her daughters grow older and she loses her husband. A beautiful well written book. If you like character development and want to see into a woman's heart read this.

Joan Colby says

The premise of this novel was promising. A married couple Ella and Lou. Their daughters, Lena who is retarded and Vivian who is normal. Vivian's daughter Shelley. Ella and Lou despair over Lena's future. Lena falls in love and marries Bob, a retarded man who works with her at Goodwill. Lou and Ella strive to find a living situation for the couple, veering from their own home to an apartment to assisted living. Bob dies in an accident. Lou also dies. Shelley, now a teenager, goes off on a jaunt with Lena. The writing is well-done. Here's the problem, none of the characters, aside from occasionally Lena and Bob, are convincing. A deliberate quirkiness seems imposed upon them. The interaction between Lena and Bob comprises the most interesting part of the book. But that's just not enough.

Chris says

At first I toyed with the idea of giving this book five stars because the figurative language was just so beautiful. The imagery made me pause and ponder as I read. Then as I continued reading, I downgraded it to four stars. Although that is still a very good rating the plot was a disappointment. At first I thought the main character was Lena but Ella was the character that captured the book. Ella was who I ended up caring about since she was so well developed. Shelly was never completely finished as a character but she was a 12 year old and that under development may have been intentional.

Daisy says

This is just beautiful. Almost perfect. So touching.

Lena clapped her hand over her mouth. "I think you look like a silvery grownup," she said, and she seemed to mean it.

The air between Ella and her husband was bruised. She looked at her soup, not knowing what to say.

"What's your name?" the man asked Shelley.

She did not know what to answer. It was as though he were asking her to be born.

"royal with boredom"

Lena reached forward and put her hands on Shelley's. The girl's hands twitched beneath them. Lena squeezed her fingers very hard.

"I'm crazy."

Lena was gazing at her. "Is this a secret?" Lena asked.

"It doesn't matter."

"Is it?"

"I guess so, yes."

Lena sat up straight with excitement. Her lips were trembling. "What's wrong?" Shelley asked.

"You told me a secret!" said Lena. "Me."

That trust filled her aunt with a joy so enormous, she could barely sit still. She made a gleeful sound, banged her heels against the metal floor, and lifted Shelley's hand to kiss the small knuckles. Her eyes were bright with gratitude. "You said a secret to me."

3 mistakes: a plastic Vons grocery bag in the '60s?; the word "stylist"; saying Santa Barbara was south of LA

Kristin says

They don't have a "never finished" column. This is one of those books for me. I just couldn't get into it.

And I SO wanted to get into it because it's actually set in Los Angeles! Will someone else read it and then tell me if it's worth it? Ha ha...

Pauline says

I wanted to like this book more, but it felt . . . unfinished. I thought there was a lot more that could have been delved into and, though it covered a lot in terms of the characters, it still felt like it was just scratching at the surface. I also found the mother to be unlikeable. I wanted to sympathize with her, but couldn't and that may also be due to my perceived superficiality of the storyline. Sadly, I just thought the author could have done a lot more with this promising storyline.

Pcox says

Wasn't bad but the mental illness perspective was not really what I wanted to read about.

Jamie says

Karen Bender is a wonderful writer. This novel is carefully crafted, touching, and insightful.

Katie Addison says

I have such a hard time understanding how anyone could give this book less than 5 stars. It captured me wholly. I was completely engrossed in the characters and the slow description of their lives. I found them so uniquely interesting, and Karen Bender's imagery is so beautiful and thought provoking. I enjoy that, really, so little happens in this book. It takes place in one day, and so many days are like that. This one was simultaneously uneventful and adventurous, with so much happening while not much was going on. For Lena and Shelley, it was such an event. I felt like I was peering into something private the whole time. But it was so good. Definitely one of my new favorites.

Nancy says

Bob! Noooooo! So sad.

Colleen says

I started it, but it didn't keep my interest at all.

Meghan says

endearing account of family, threading through generations and histories til arriving full circle from front to back, the span of only a single day serving the main attraction of the book with first-person memory chapters diving for character insight.

Sarah says

Very moving, with well imagined characters and incredible description that only occasionally goes on too long.

Cindy says

This book went nowhere fast and I quit reading it when I realized that. A middle-aged mentally challenged woman whose husband has died is visited by her teen-age niece and they go on simple little adventures around their city. It was boring, bland, and not in the least interesting.

Dinah says

I enjoyed this book and enjoyed getting to know the characters.
