Distinguished Visiting Writer Karen E. Bender to Read at the University of North Carolina Wilmington October 16

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Karen E. Bender, the fall 2014 Distinguished Visiting Writer in the Creative Writing Department at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, will read at 7 p.m., Thursday, October 16 in Kenan Hall Room 1111.

Karen E. Bender is the author of the novel *Like Normal People*, which was a *Los Angeles Times* bestseller, a *Washington Post* Best Book of the Year, and a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection. Her second novel, *A Town of Empty Rooms*, was published in January, 2013 and is now available in paperback. Counterpoint Press will also publish a new story collection, *Refund*, in 2015.

Her short fiction has appeared in magazines including the *New Yorker, Granta, Ploughshares,* and in *The Best American Short Stories, The Best American Mystery Stories, New Stories from the South: The Year’s Best,* and *The Pushcart Prize* anthologies. Two of her stories have been read in the Selected Shorts program on NPR, and she’s received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Rona Jaffe foundation. She spent the 2013–2014 academic year teaching creative writing at Tunghai University in Taiwan.

Of forthcoming *Refund*, Andrea Barrett said, “Money, money! The things we’ll do to get it, the distortions (especially when children are involved) of the space between desire and satisfaction: these are Karen Bender’s subjects, which she handles with savage wit, great economy, and a brilliant instinct for the telling situation. Her stories floored me.”

All events are free and open to the public. Receptions sponsored by the department and book signings sponsored by Pomegranate Books will follow readings.

For further information on UNCW’s programs and events in creative writing, please contact the Department of Creative Writing at 910.962.7063.

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