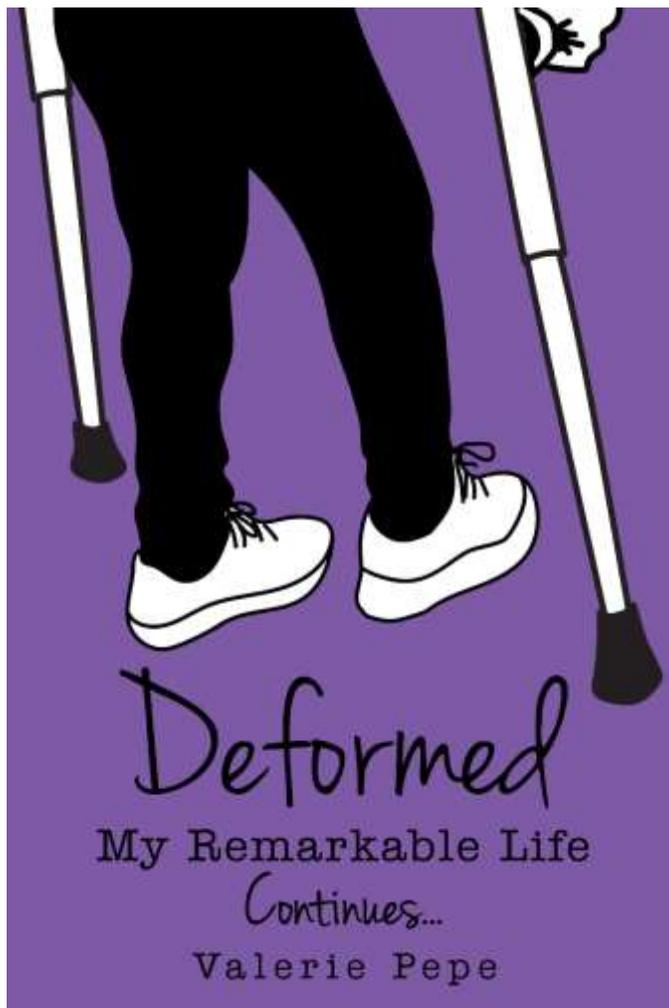


Contact: Jim Bergman (646) 456-3606
Release Valerie Pepe (917) 612-3926

For Immediate



In this sequel to *Deformed: My Remarkable Life* (Mediacs, 2016), Valerie Pepe updates the inspirational story of a woman's struggle to overcome a crippling birth defect in pursuit of a "normal" home and work life. Picking up where her first memoir left off, Valerie takes the reader on a heartfelt journey into middle age; the loss of family members, including her dad; a new and deeper love affair, and volunteer work to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy and others who like her were born with the joint contractures and abnormal muscle fibrosis of Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC). Born and raised in Staten Island's Italian-American community, Valerie Pepe has written a sequel that once again stands as a shining example of how a strong and independent person with a severe physical disability can refuse to be marginalized.

Valerie Pepe is the Chairwoman of the AMC (Arthrogyrosis Multiplex Congenita) Music Festival which raises funds and awareness about her rare congenital birth defect (one in every 3,000 births). She is featured in the documentary film, "The Sweetest Gift: Living with Arthrogyrosis Multiplex Congenita," directed by Margaret Chaidez and released in 2013. Valerie's essays have appeared in *Woman's World*, *DStripped Magazines*, *Snug Harbor* and *The Staten Island Advance*. She has a *B.A.* in English and an *M.S.* in Education from St. John's University, and a Certificate in Creative Writing from New York University. From 2010-2012, she hosted the internet radio interview program, "The Val and Betty Show." Valerie works as a Business Analysis Specialist in the Environmental Health and Safety Department at the New York City Housing Authority. She commutes every day to her job in Manhattan from her Staten Island apartment, the neighborhood where she grew up in an extended Italian-American family.



Title: *Deformed: My Remarkable Life Continues*

Publication Date: October 7, 2020

ISBN: 978-1-7358460-0-2

Trim: 6 x 9

Page Count: 148 pages

Price: \$14.95 (paperback); \$9.95 (eBook)

REVIEWS OF VALERIE'S FIRST BOOK

In this book, 'Deformed - My Remarkable Life' A special woman, Valerie Pepe, shares her life experiences with us. This is a very special book from someone with courage, determination and unique experiences to inspire anyone who reads it! Well written, neatly organized, it's simply a great book.

—Bill Russo, Host of *The Bill Russo Show*, on *City World Radio*

An inspirational book that tells the tale of the author's battle to overcome a very crippling disease. It shows the power a person can have when she is determined not to be held back and not let anything stand in her way.

—Kevin Kilkenny

Great book. Enlightening as well as entertaining. If you want to know how to relate with someone with a disability or deformity. this is a good book to read. I have a disability/deformity myself yet I learned some things, as well as being able to relate to the struggles faced.

—DanMan32

A well written book by the author, Valerie Pepe depicting her life living with a rare debilitating disease AMC (Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita) since birth. This book will inspire people with disabilities to follow in Valerie's footsteps in overcoming them and to live a normal and successful life.

—George L. Cassissa

My 11 year old daughter lives with arthrogryposis and this is a point in my motherhood where few people understand what it's like to grow up with a physical difference. When in doubt, I can pick up *Deformed* and revisit ways she's navigated life and unique challenges.

—Amazon Customer



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