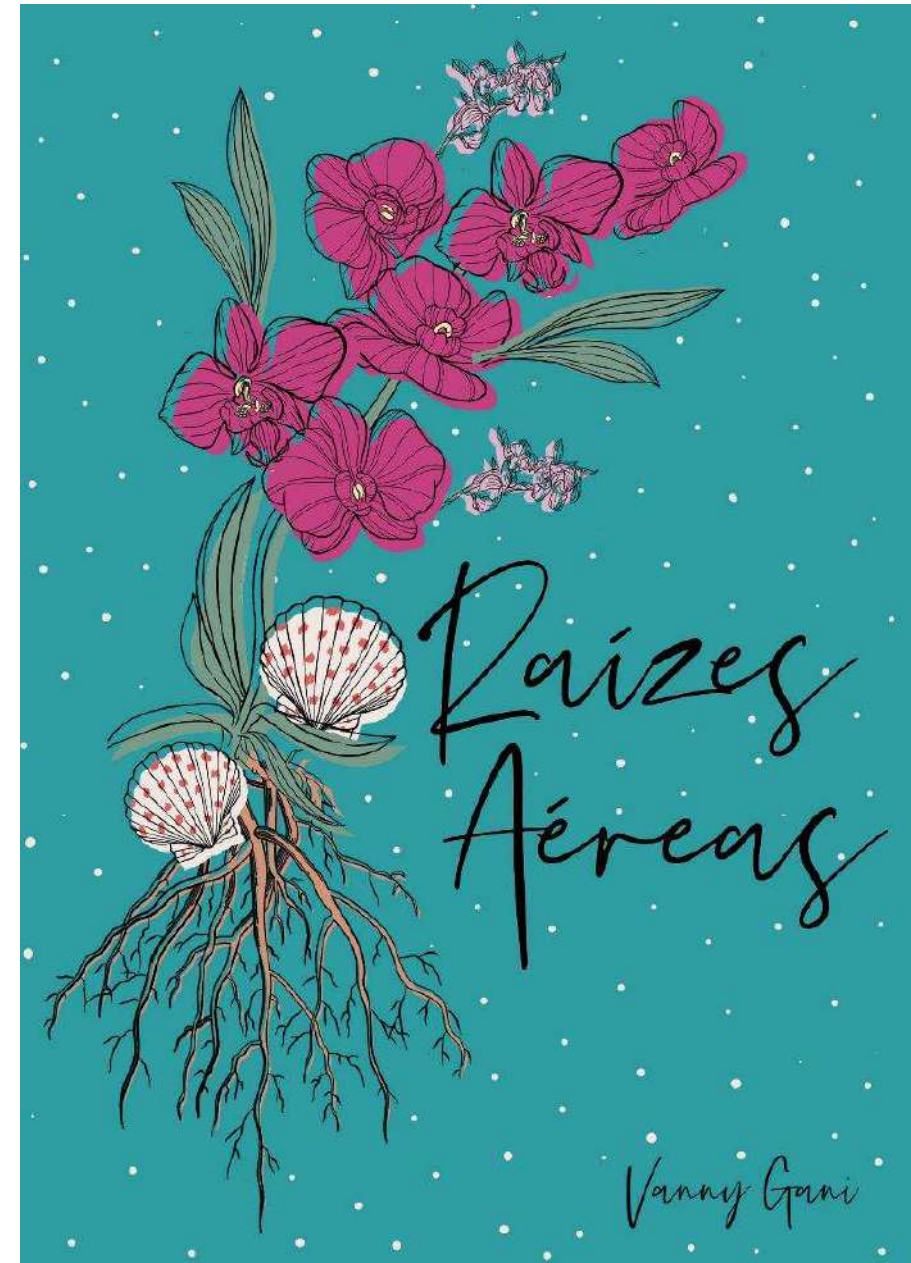
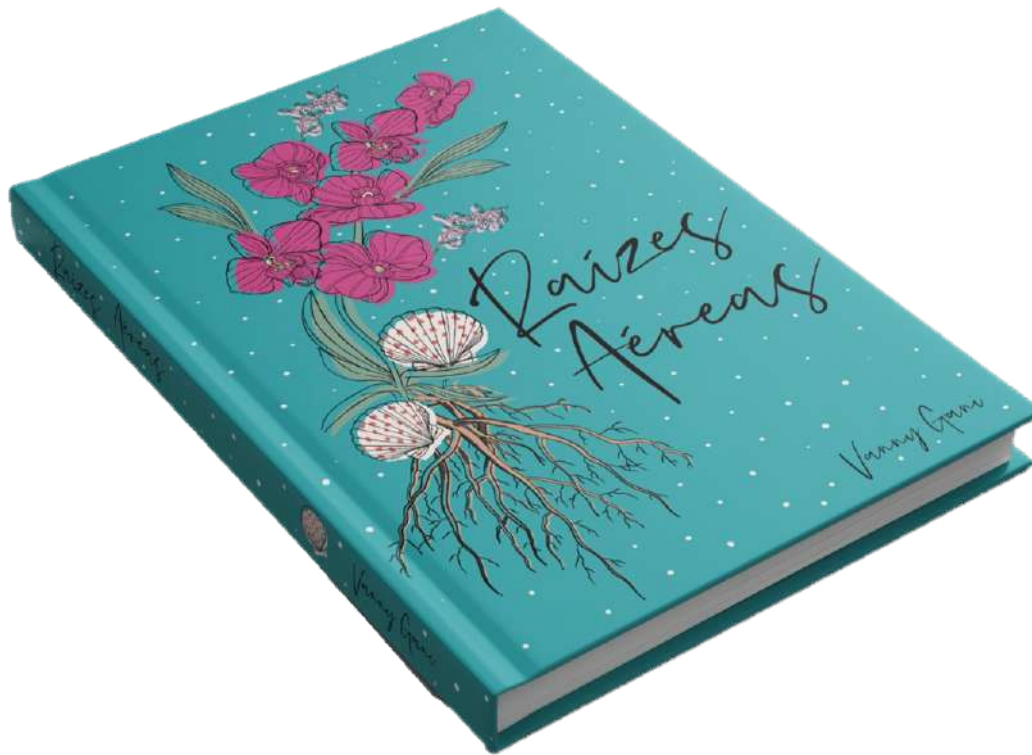


# SYNOPSIS

How would you feel if you found out your grandmother was a big liar? The protagonist believed that the grandmother was a famous French actress, but comes to suspect that she might be a prostitute. In search of the truth, after finding documents from her grandmother with eight different names, she travels with her family to the places where she lived, Romania, Israel and France, and makes surprising discoveries.



# RESUME



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## KEY WORDS:

Belonging, ancestry,  
Judaism, loneliness, lies and grief.

## TARGET AUDIENCE:

Adults.

## GENDER AND STRUCTURE :

Aerial Roots is an investigative novel that mixes memories and fiction.

# CHAPTER 1

The sunny day contrasted with the color of the clothes everyone was wearing. It was the first time that I saw my father wearing a kippah. My father only showed his Judaism in the mornings when he left the house, when he kissed a silver symbol hanging on the side of the house door and spoke a few words in another language. That day was no different. I don't know why I never felt curious about it, or maybe I already asked, but forgot the answer. The fact is that I had never given importance to that small object that always decorated our home. - What do you call this silver object? My father explained that it was mezuzah, the representation of a scroll of parchment that contains one of the commandments of the Torah. It is a symbol of God's protection for Jewish homes. - What does that phrase you always say mean? - *Cu Dumnezeu în nainte*, means in Romanian "God ahead". - In Romanian? Why in Romanian and not Hebrew or even French? My father hesitated to answer. He looked at my mother and replied matter-of-factly: Your grandmother was Romanian, daughter. But she always preferred to be French. You know how much your grandmother loved Paris! What do you mean my grandmother was Romanian? How can anyone prefer to have a nationality? That does not exist! How could you tell me something like that now, after thirty years of existence? Later, my father told me that being Parisian for my grandmother was less Jewish than being Romanian. Romanians also had a bad reputation in Europe for being gypsies and prejudiced discrimination as thieves. In these way she eliminated two problems with her choice. I couldn't make out the expression on my parents' faces, or I preferred not to understand, because they were so different from me. My dad was not sad as I could guess, in fact, he looked relieved. My mother celebrated joyfully as if this were the most natural event in life. My brother was more concerned with discussing the relationship with his girlfriend. In the car, all the way, no words were spoken. I held back the crying, containing, with each breath, the package that swelled in my throat so as not to reveal that I was the only being in the family who seemed to really care.



THE BOOK ALTERNATES BETWEEN CHAPTERS ON GRANDMA'S YOUTH AND GRANDDAUGHTER'S JOURNEY.



## Grandmother

Adela is a 16-year-old Jewess who is famous in Romania for playing the role of a nun in a play. She falls in love with the journalist who interviewed her, they live a great love story, they get married and live in Paris until the Second World War breaks out. Her family is captured, but she manages to escape by hiding in a priest's cassock. This seems to be the grandmother's true story, the truth to be revealed. However, the reader will discover that it is the story that the grandmother invented mixed with the fantasy that granddaughter created by filling in the gaps of what the grandmother did not tell.



## Granddaughter

The granddaughter finds old documents and posters of the grandmother and realizes that not everything was a lie, her grandmother was an actress in need. The mishaps of her trip and family fights are reported with great humor. During the journey after much difficulty, she finds a lost relative who reveals the truth about her grandmother. She lied that she was captured in the War, she was not born in Iasi, she lied that her family died, she was not famous and moreover, she suspects her aunt is the daughter of another husband, not her grandpa.

STRUCTURE

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Vanny Gani

VANESSA IS A BRAZILIAN WRITER, POST GRADUATED IN CREATIVE WRITING, AND AUTHOR OF FOUR BOOKS. AERIAL ROOTS AND THE AWAKENING OF THE STAR, A MYSTICAL FICTION TRILOGY. SHE IS ALSO A FASHION DESIGNER, AND ASTROLOGER IN HER SPARE TIME, HOWEVER, IT IS IN WRITING THAT SHE FINDS THE MAXIMUM EXPRESSION OF HER CREATIVITY. AERIAL ROOTS IS BASED ON HER PERSONAL LIFE.



CHARACTERS



# Adela

**Who:** main character.

**Personality:** vain, superstitious and ambitious.

Her big dream is to have children, to overcome the fact that she was abandoned by her mother in an orphanage. She discovers that the love of her life was infertile and leaves him to start a new life in Israel. Her lies camouflage an inferiority complex. Deep down, she fears loneliness and abandonment. Wanderer, she needs to “fix her roots”, rescue her origin and create bonds of trust with her family.

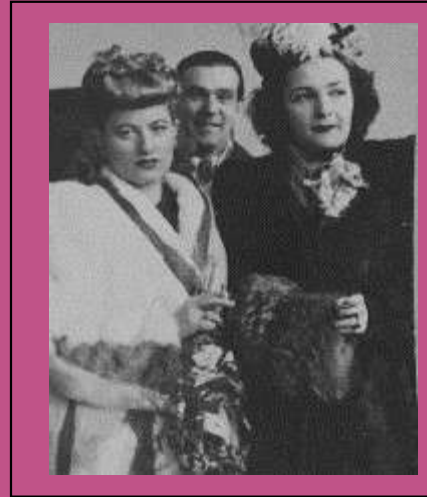
## Nicolae



**Who:** Adela's great love.  
**Personality:** charming, romantic, bohemian, inconsequential.

He publishes the interview that reveals that the actress who plays a nun is Jewish. The article makes Adela famous, but exposes her to great risks. He risks the couple's life by starting to work as a political journalist in France, warning about the advance of Nazism.

## Sylvia



**Who:** Adela's older sister.  
**Personality:** envious, sarcastic, bitter and intelligent.

Sylvia believes that her sister is adopted. She is not satisfied that her mother seems to like Adela better. The two sisters can only make amends when the truth is revealed. This excess of love is called blame for having abandoned her daughter in an orphanage and rescued her years later.

## Matilda



**Who:** Adela's best friend.  
**Personality:** dreamer, frivolous, innocent.

Matilde is an actress and dreams of fame. She has a hard time accepting the harsh reality of Nazi times. Her father is a priest and he is the one who helps Adela to flee the country.

## Main Characters





**Who:** narrator and Adela's granddaughter.

**Personality:** conciliatory, concerned.

She tries to please everyone on the trip, to prevent the family from fighting. The task is exhausting and at some point she explodes. She feels betrayed by the lies that her grandmother invented, but she deceives the reader, leading them to believe that Adela's story is the truth she was looking for.

What is the difference between lie and fiction?

**Who:** Adela's son.

**Personality:** Introverted, submissive, likes routine.

He never confronted his mother about his true story and suffers from his lack of curiosity. The trip is an opportunity to get to know his origins, a rescue of the Romanian language he learned in childhood and also of his religion, but he is unable to take advantage of the difficulties of his daughter's lack of organization and his wife's excesses..

**Who:** Adela's daughter-in-law.

**Personality:** demanding, nosy and vain.

She and her mother-in-law never got along, both vain and dominating women. She disdains the purpose of the trip, she is the one who insinuates that her mother-in-law should be a prostitute and let everyone crazy with her level of demand and her poor English.

**Who:** granddaughter's husband.

**Personality:** paranoid, stressed, caring and funny.

His goal is to find her wife grandmother's original documents to get his European passport. Even though he is stressed by his wife's lack of planning and his mother-in-law's meddling, he amuses everyone with his theories about Adela's true identity. Was she a spy for the KGB?

Can a plant grow without fixing its roots?  
She orchid.  
With aerial roots.  
Without a land to make her own.  
Clinging to any surface.  
Eternal parasite.



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