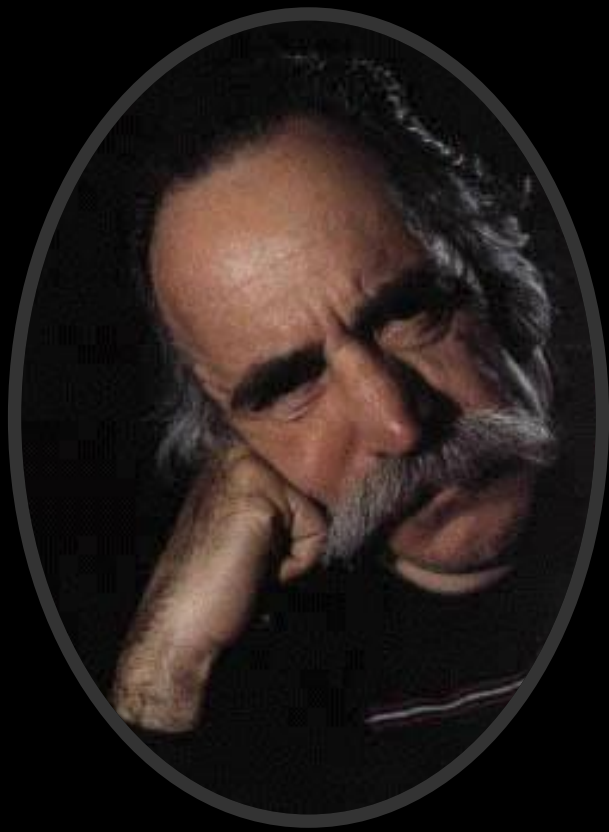


**William Saroyan**



***Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure.***

# Early years

William Saroyan was born on August 31, 1908 in Fresno, California, to Armenak and Takoohi Saroyan, Armenian immigrants from Bitlis, Ottoman Empire. His father came to New York in 1905 and started preaching in Armenian Apostolic churches.



# Early years

Saroyan decided to become a writer after his mother showed him some of his father's writings. A few of his early short articles were published in *Overland Monthly*. His first stories appeared in the 1930s

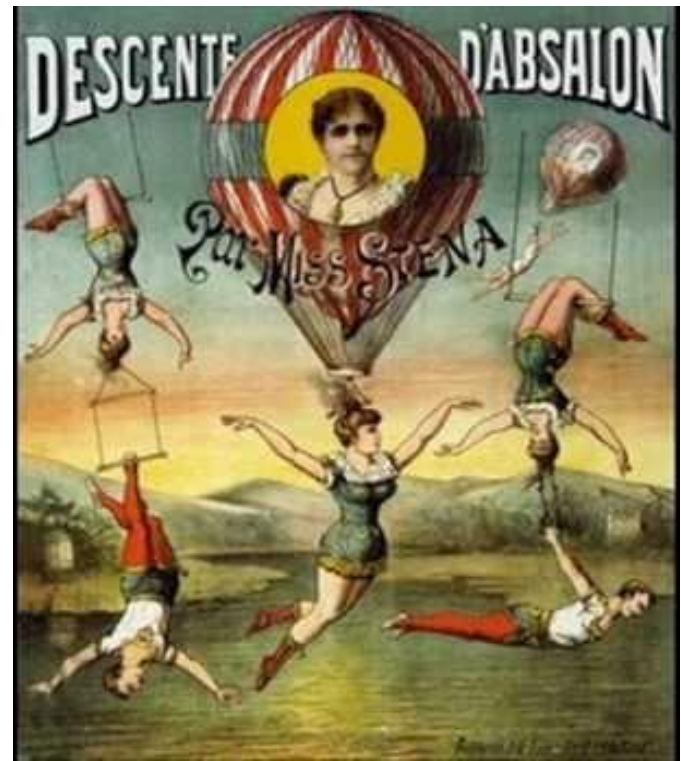


*It takes a lot of rehearsing for a man to be himself.*

William Saroyan

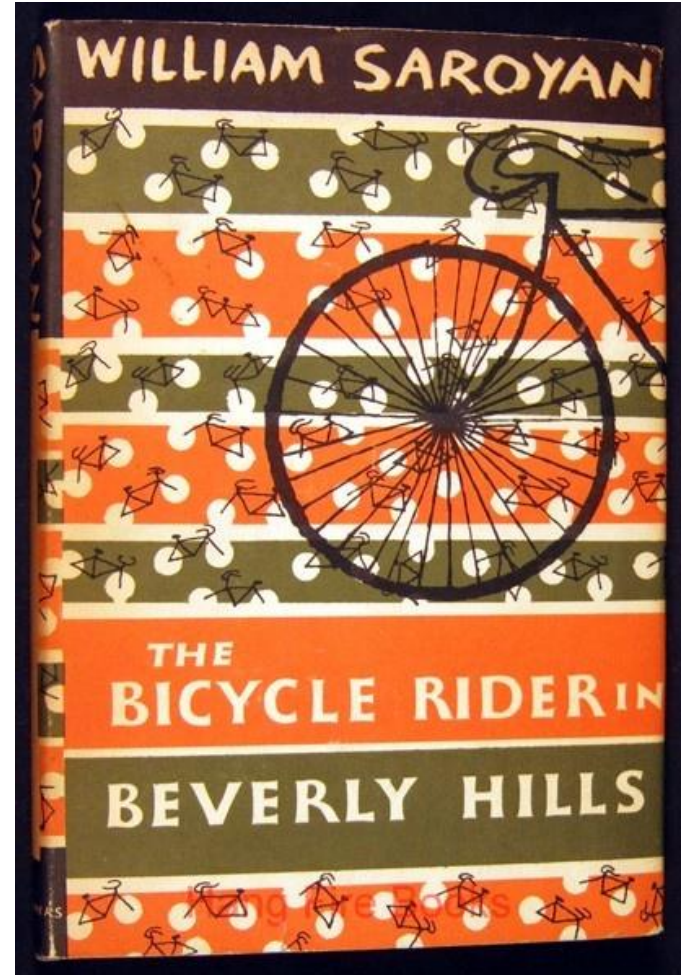
# Career

As a writer, Saroyan made his breakthrough in Story magazine with *The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze* (1934), the title taken from the nineteenth century song of the same title.



# Career

Saroyan published essays and memoirs, in which he depicted the people he had met on travels such as the playwright George Bernard Shaw. In 1952, Saroyan published *The Bicycle Rider in Beverly Hills*, the first of several volumes of memoirs.



# Career

Before the war, Saroyan worked on the screenplay of *Golden Boy* (1939) but he never had much success in Hollywood. Interest in Saroyan's novels declined after the war, when he was criticized for sentimentality.





*It is impossible not to notice that  
our world is tormented by failure,  
hate, guilt, and fear.*

William Saroyan

# Personal life

In 1943, Saroyan married actress Carol Marcus, with whom he had two children, Aram, who became an author and published a book about his father, and Lucy, who became an actress.



# Personal life

Saroyan died in Fresno, of prostate cancer at age 72.



*Every man in the world is better  
than someone else and not as good  
as someone else.*

William Saroyan