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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

passengers, members, board, waiting, customers, travel, tailored clothing, invite, cigar aficionado, proven track records, armitage, average annual salary, wreak, elite status, disheartened, vying, prior, business acumen, first class passengers, farce

00:06

I'm us Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith. And this is the slow down. I traveled nearly every week. I've got it mostly down to a routine I can perform without thinking. Because when I do stop to think about the nature of travel, I'm disheartened. I am disheartened by the many screens vying for my attention. And by the way, my fellow travelers and I are corralled into lines at every turn, sorted by group, according to purchasing power and loyalty to gargantuan corporations. Has it really come to this? Today's poem, thank you for waiting by British poet Simon Armitage assures me that I'm not alone. I love how it pokes fun at the farce of elite status, illuminating the real ways that a consumer based sense of worth can wreak havoc upon your self esteem. Thank you for waiting by Simon Armitage. At this moment in time, we'd like to invite first class passengers only to board the aircraft. Thank you for waiting. We now extend our invitation to exclusive superior privilege and Excelsior members, followed by triple double and single Platinum members, followed by gold and silver card members, followed by pearl and coral club members. military personnel in uniform may also board at this time. Thank you for waiting, We now invite bronze Alliance members and passengers enrolled in our rare earth metals points and rewards scheme to come forward. And thank you for waiting. Thank you for waiting. accredited, beautiful people may now board plus any gentlemen carrying a copy of this month cigar aficionado magazine, plus subscribers to our red diamond, Black Opal or blue Garnet promotion. We also welcome Sapphire, Ruby and Emerald members at this time, followed by Amethyst, onyx, obsidian, Jet Topaz and quartz members. Priority lane customers Fast Track customers chosen elite customers preferred access customers and first among equals customers may also now board on production of a valid receipt, travelers of elegance and style, wearing designer and or hand tailored clothing to a minimum value of 10,000. US dollars may now board passengers in possession of items of jewelry including wristwatches with a retail purchase price, greater than the average annual salary of a mid career high school teacher are also welcome to board. also welcome at this time our

passengers talking loudly into cell phone headsets. About recently completed share deals, property acquisitions, and aggressive takeovers. Plus hedge fund managers with proven track records in the undermining of small to medium sized ambitions. Passengers and classes loam, chalk, marl and clay may also board customers who have purchased our dignity or morning orchid packages may now collect their sanitized shell suits prior to boarding. Thank you for waiting. mediocre passengers are now invited to board followed by passengers lacking business acumen or genuine leadership potential, followed by people of little or no consequence, followed by people operating at a net fiscal loss as people those holding tickets for zones rust, mulch, cardboard, puddle and sand may now want to begin gathering their tissues and crumbs prior to embarkation. Passengers either partially or wholly dependent on welfare or kindness. Please have your travel coupons validated at the quarantine desk, sweat, dust, shoddy scurf feces, chaff, remnant ash, pus sludge, clinker splinter and soot all you people are now free to board. The slowdown is a production of American public media in partnership with the Library of Congress and the Poetry Foundation.