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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

barbarians, wall, poem, coming, tone, chin, bison, illusions, horse, register, chang, feminism, slowdown, creates, mending, uttering, frontier, deportation, poetry, brick

00:05

I'm poet Tina Chang filling in for chasi case, Smith. And this is the slow down.

00:22

One of the most fascinating elements of poetry to me is tone. What is tone? It's an emotional register that moves deeper below a poems content. I believe it to be a tremor of sensation, the register of a distinct feeling, a personality and commitment to an atmosphere that language creates. We can think of tone as a soundtrack to a pole, the way in which lyric reverberates and creates an undeniable mood that stays with the reader long after the poem has had it say. Today's poem, the barbarians are coming by Marilyn chin possesses an undeniably powerful tone that can move from earnest to caustic for a moment to moment. Chin is known for her brave old take no prisoners approach to subject matter, which often addresses identity, culture, history, politics, and feminism in her body of work, reading the barbarians are coming in the year 2019. during a time when one of the greater debates of our current administration focuses on immigration, Border Patrol, and deportation. I read this poem as an anthem of resistance. If we could name a symbol of our time, it would be that of a wall. What is a wall, but a structure that is meant to prop up a home a construction that is part of a larger hole. But the wall has now come to be a symbol of division, isolation, exclusion, and most of all, it has become an emblem of sustained fear. It is often the return to Robert Frost's poem, mending wall with a speaker states. Before I built a wall, I'd asked to know what I was walling in, or walling out, and to whom I was like to give a fence. Something there is a doesn't love a wall. In many ways, today's poem is uttering a similar sentiment, questioning the walls function in the pursuit of human connection. While frost tone is pensive, and meditative, Chin's is urgent, bombastic, and undoubtedly critical as its temper rains down in Torrance, a feminine strength and fury. The barbarians are coming by Maryland chin. War chariots Thunder horses Nay, the barbarians are coming. What are we waiting for

young new Bible women pointing at the wall. The barbarians are coming. They have heard about a weakened link in the wall so the barbarians have ears among us. So deceive yourself with illusions. You are only one woman holding one broken brick in the wall. So deceive yourself with illusions as if you matter, that brick and that wall. The barbarians are coming. They have red beards or beardless with a top knot. The barbarians are coming. They are your father's brothers, teachers, lovers, and they are clearly and other. The barbarians are coming. If you call me a horse, I must be a horse. If you call me a bison, I am equally guilty. When a thing is true, and is correctly described, one doubles the blame by not admitting it. So songs himself was a barbarian king, horse, horse, bison bison the barbarians are coming and how they love to come. The smells of the great frontier exult in them. The slowdown is a production of American public media in partnership with the Poetry Foundation.