What in the world is the logic behind constantly shuffling the unhoused people in Eugene around, destroying their homes and communities every so often, denying them the most fundamental human rights of existence just because they've drawn some bad hands in the game of life? In what way do the current laws enabling sweeps and the constant displacement of these people possible address any issues at their roots, or solve anything? Is it expected that with enough sweeps, eventually they'll all go away? That the housing crisis in America will be solved through oppression and dehumanization?

I come from an upper middleclass household in a suburb of Portland, and moving to Eugene, the unhoused capital of the country per capita, has given me such wonderful perspective and helped me to truly understand my own privilege; I am not used to seeing unhoused folks, and did not grow up exposed to them, and yet I can still understand their humanity, look them in the eye, and offer my help where I can. I don't understand why other people in my position struggle to do this, but I suspect is has to do with the way they are depicted and treated by trusted authorities, such as police and city officials. What kind of message about basic empathy is the city of Eugene sending to its residents? What kind of world is it modeling?

To deny these people the right to sleep, to sit in public spaces, to possess more than what fits in their pockets, and to protect themselves from the weather or a g*dd*mn pandemic is to dehumanize them, and is a solution to nothing. The only logic I can see behind the current status quo has to do with the enforcement of an unthinkably immoral caste system that keeps people like Sarah Medary kicking back in her hill-top luxury, propped up by the pain of a hundred "untouchables," afforded not even so much as a consistent & immobile ghetto to suffer in. If the logic of the city is not to decrease the suffering of its residents, then the logic of the city is utterly useless. Illogical. Y'all better start using your hearts.