Abstract: Agents in contemporary societies are faced continually with choices regarding engagement with technological artifacts. They can choose to engage or decline engagement after considering the costs and benefits in each case. However, certain aspects of the surveillance society have become irresistible (Jonas 2015), so that refusal to engage with them is not a realistic option. Irresistibility results from 1) efficiency, 2) ubiquity, 3) ease of surrender, 4) the networked life-world and 5) the difficulty of pinpointing sources of shared information. The proliferation of the Internet of Things (IoT), particularly as embedded in “smart city” initiatives, helps to make surveillance technologies irresistible. After laying the conceptual groundwork for discussing irresistible bargains, this essay offers a two-part normative critique of smart cities and the IoT. One aspect of the critique focuses on the asymmetrical power relations engendered by smart cities: government/citizen relations under these conditions actual deform the social contract and replace it with the “corporate contract” (Sadowski 2015). Second, acquiescence to certain surveillance technologies actually violates a duty that the subject owes to itself: the duty to avoid dignitary harms (Allen 2013).