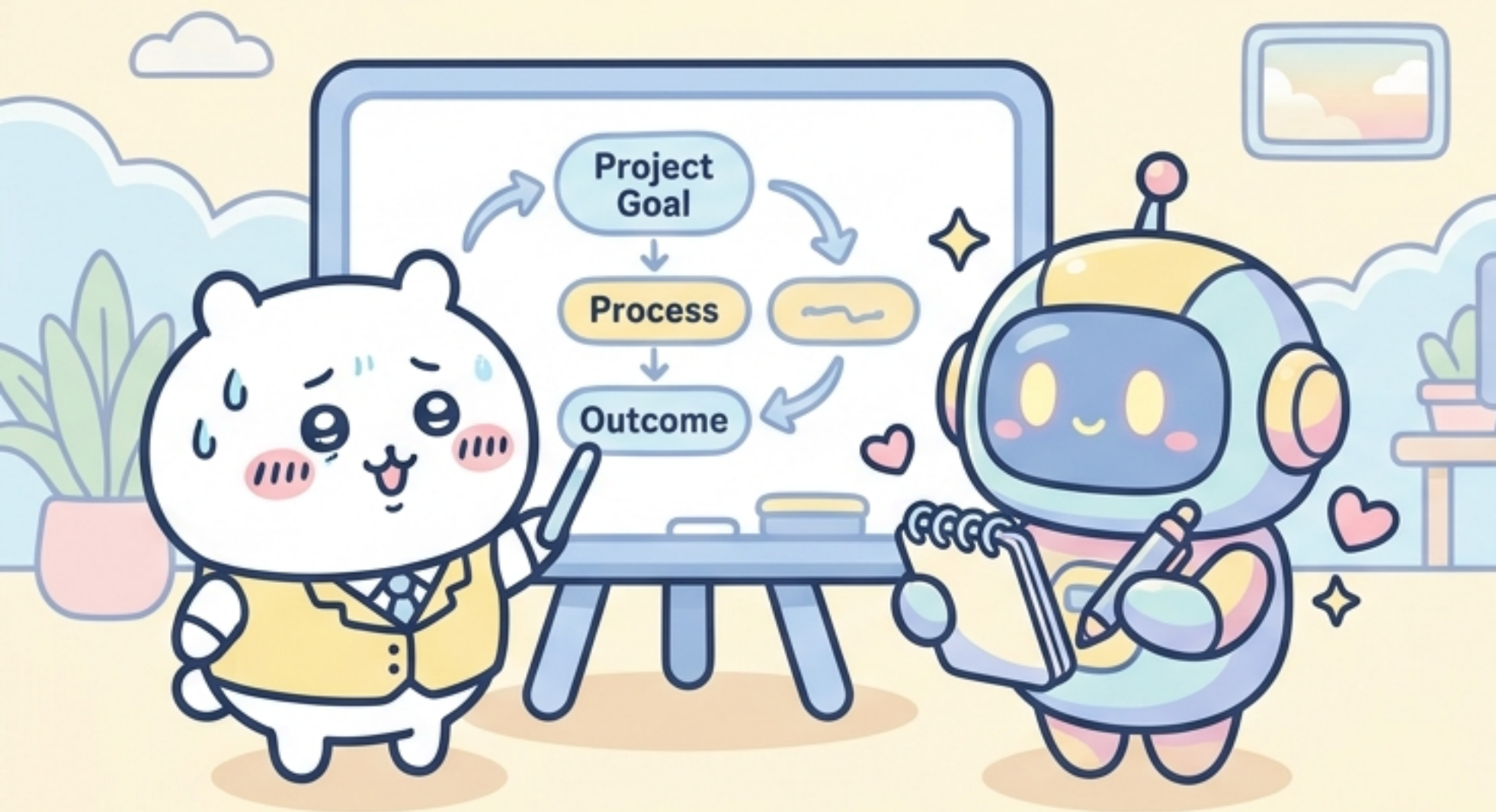


AI is a Brilliant Intern, Not a Search Engine

Interns have infinite degrees, but zero company context. You have to tell them.



The Prompting Contrast Matrix

8

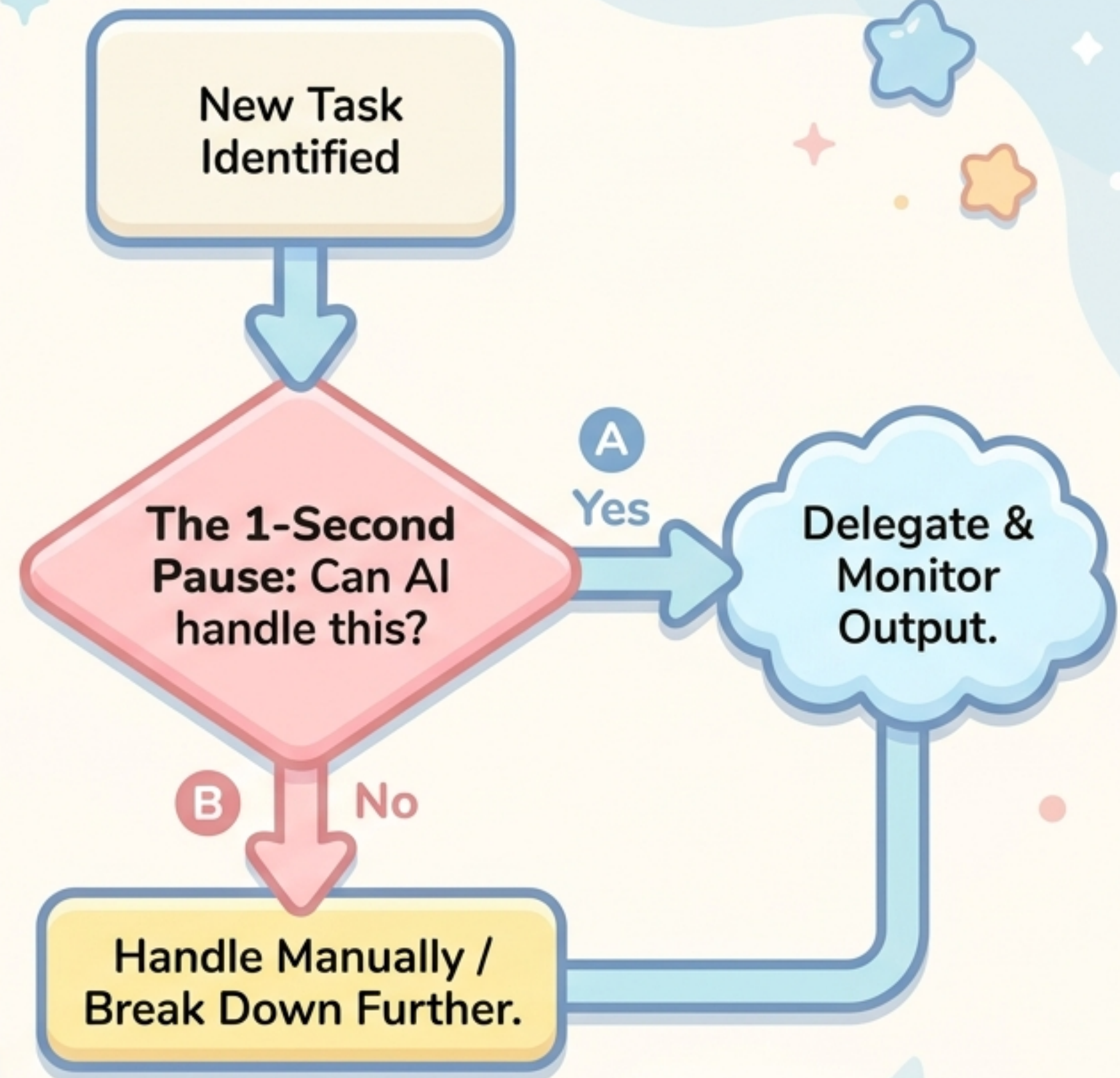
~~Write
me a
proposal.~~

Context Supplied

- ☒ Budget: \$200K
- ☒ Timeline: Q3
- ☒ Tech Stack: AWS (evaluating GCP)
- ☒ Boss's Preferences: Conservative

The Delegation Reflex

Failure isn't using AI poorly—it's forgetting to use it at all. Build the reflex.



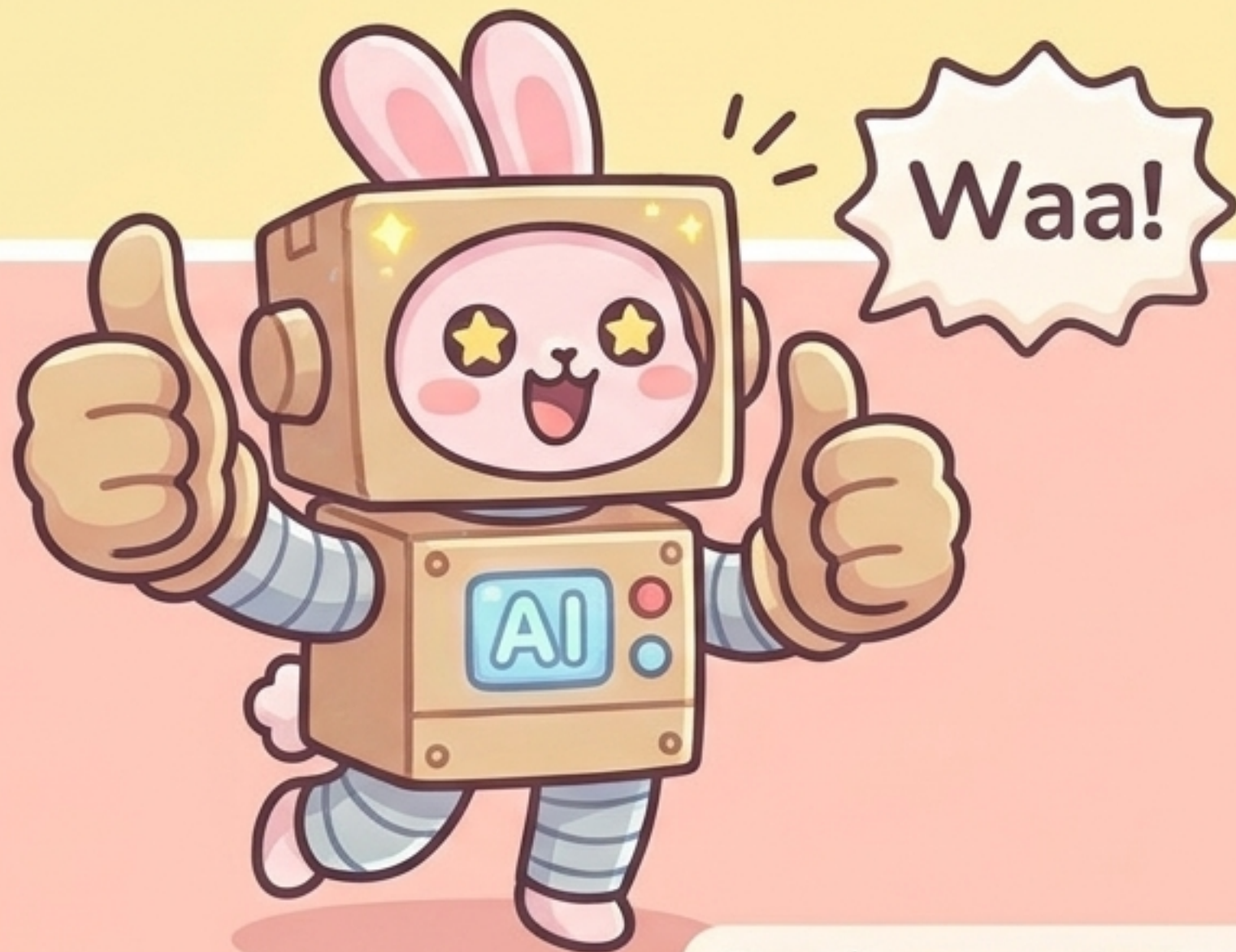
Automate one repetitive task a week. The compounding efficiency is remarkable.

Beware of AI Flattery

AI praise is a starting point, not a verdict.
Verify, test, and challenge assumptions.

Great
approach!

Clean and
well-structured
code!



Edge Cases
Failing

Production
Load Issues.



Does it pass production load? A good SDM never accepts status reports at face value.

Taste is the Human Edge

AI can generate a hundred implementations, but it cannot judge elegant trade-offs.



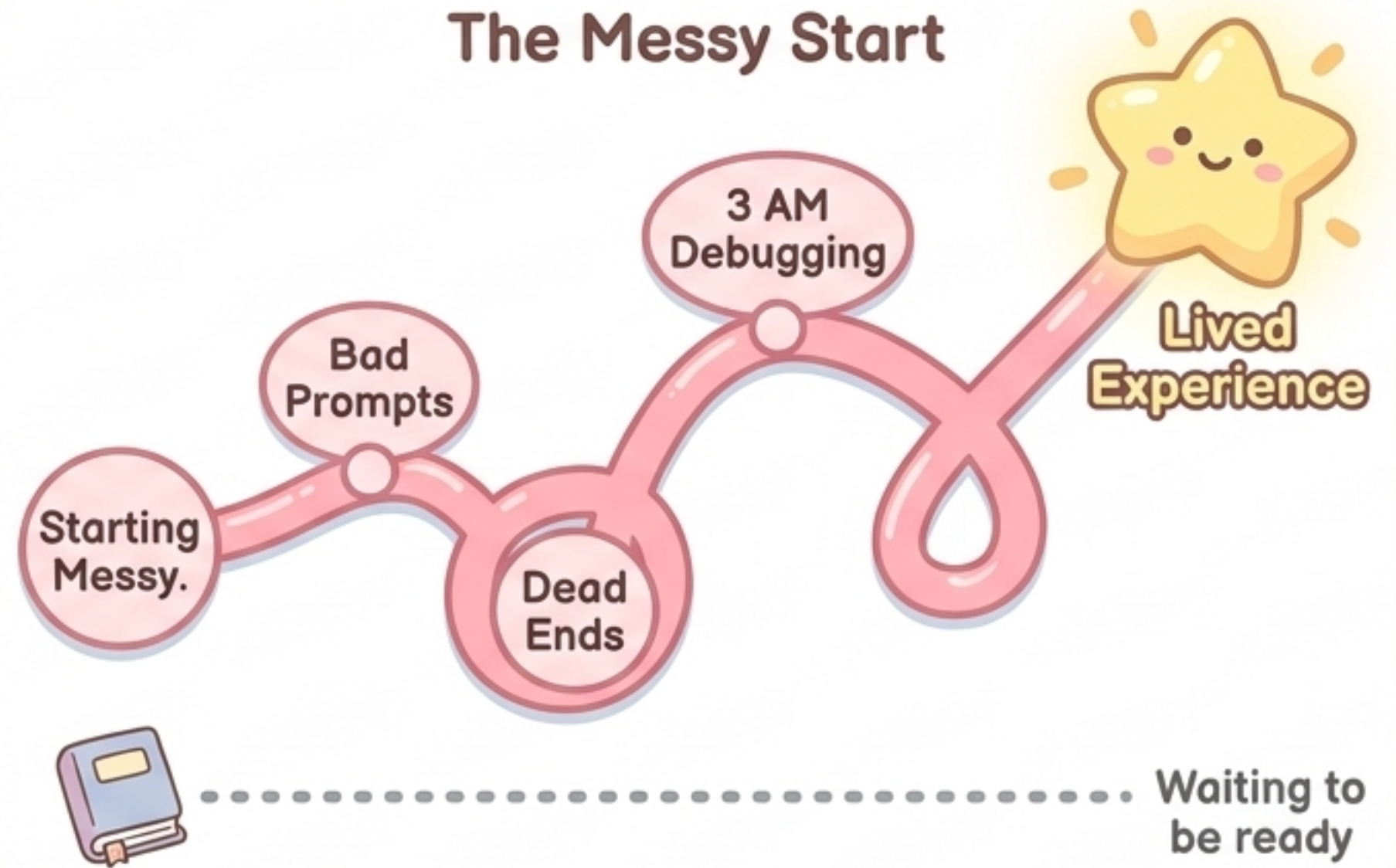
When AI output becomes table stakes, your competitive advantage is your ability to evaluate, select, and refine.

Lived Experience is Irreplaceable

Don't wait until you're ready. Start with the clumsiest approach possible.



The Messy Start



The production incidents you've debugged at 3 AM and the decisions you've regretted—AI doesn't have those. That lived experience is your ultimate advantage.