

STARTUP MELTDOWN

Written by Assistant

FADE IN:

INT. TECH STARTUP OFFICE – MORNING

The office is buzzing with nervous energy. Banners reading "LAUNCH DAY!" hang everywhere. SARAH (30s, CEO, stressed but trying to appear calm) paces while checking her phone.

SARAH

Has anyone seen the demo unit?
Anyone?

MIKE (20s, software engineer, disheveled) rushes in, coffee stains on his shirt.

MIKE

I swear I put it in the conference
room last night!

JESSICA (30s, marketing director, perpetually optimistic) bounds in carrying a box of promotional swag.

JESSICA

Don't worry! I have backup units.
Well, they're prototypes from six
months ago, but they're basically
the same thing, right?

SARAH

(horrified)

The ones that catch fire?

DAVID (40s, CFO, always with a calculator) enters, looking pale.

DAVID

Speaking of fire, our insurance
company just called. Apparently,
they're concerned about our
"history of combustible
presentations."

EMILY (20s, PR manager, fashion-forward) struts in while on the phone.

EMILY
(into phone)
No, TechCrunch, we're NOT the
company that accidentally sent
10,000 units to a goat farm...
Okay, maybe we are.

RYAN (30s, head of sales, overly confident) enters with a swagger.

RYAN
Ladies and gentlemen, don't panic.
I've got this totally under
control. I've invited every major
tech journalist, blogger, and
influencer within a 100-mile
radius.

SARAH
That's what I'm afraid of.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM – ONE HOUR LATER

The team frantically sets up for the presentation. JESSICA struggles with tangled cables while MIKE types furiously on his laptop.

MIKE
The presentation software just
crashed. Again.

EMILY
Use PowerPoint?

MIKE
(horrified)
We're a tech company! We can't use
PowerPoint! What will people think?

DAVID
They'll think we're competent?

SARAH checks her watch nervously.

SARAH
We have fifteen minutes. Where's

the keynote speaker?

RYAN

About that... Remember how I said I booked Elon Musk?

SARAH

Yes?

RYAN

Well, I actually booked Elon Musk... the children's party entertainer.

Everyone stares at RYAN in disbelief.

JESSICA

(trying to be positive)

Maybe he can juggle our products?

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM – LAUNCH EVENT

The room is packed with journalists and influencers. The team stands nervously on stage. PARTY ENTERTAINER ELON (50s, dressed like a budget magician) juggles three prototype devices.

PARTY ELON

And now, watch as I make your expectations... disappear!

One of the devices slips and crashes to the floor, breaking into pieces. The audience gasps.

SARAH

(whispering to MIKE)

Please tell me that wasn't the only working unit.

MIKE

(whispering back)

Define "working."

EMILY steps forward, attempting damage control.

EMILY

What you just witnessed was our revolutionary self-disassembling feature!

The journalists start murmuring and taking notes.

JESSICA
(improvising)
Yes! For the environmentally
conscious consumer who wants their
tech to return to its natural
state!

DAVID pulls out his calculator, frantically punching numbers.

DAVID
We're either going bankrupt or
becoming billionaires. I can't tell
which.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM – LATER

The Q&A session has begun. A TECH JOURNALIST raises his hand.

TECH JOURNALIST
Your press release mentions AI
integration. Can you demonstrate?

SARAH looks at MIKE, who looks terrified.

MIKE
(whispering)
The AI thinks it's a toaster.

SARAH
(to audience)
Our AI is so advanced, it's...
taking a personal day.

RYAN jumps in, trying to save the situation.

RYAN
But wait! We have something even
better! Jessica, bring out the
special surprise!

JESSICA wheels in a cart covered by a sheet.

JESSICA
Behold, our latest innovation!

She pulls off the sheet, revealing a regular toaster with

their company logo stuck on it.

EMILY

(improvising)

It's our new smart toaster! It...
uh... syncs with your calendar to
predict when you'll want toast!

The audience looks confused but intrigued.

INT. BACKSTAGE AREA – CONTINUOUS

The team huddles while PARTY ELON continues entertaining the crowd with balloon animals.

SARAH

This is a disaster. We're finished.

DAVID

Actually, our pre-orders just went
up 300%.

EVERYONE

What?!

DAVID

Apparently, people love the idea of
a self-destructing phone. They're
calling it "planned obsolescence
taken to its logical conclusion."

MIKE

And the toaster thing is trending
on Twitter.

JESSICA

I told you optimism works!

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM – END OF EVENT

The team takes their final bow. The audience is actually
applauding.

SARAH

(to the audience)

Thank you all for coming to witness
the future of technology.
Remember, sometimes the best

innovations come from happy
accidents!

A device in the background catches fire. EMILY quickly throws
a promotional t-shirt over it.

EMILY
And that concludes our
demonstration of rapid heating
technology!

The audience cheers. The team exchanges bewildered looks.

INT. OFFICE – NEXT DAY

The team sits around a table, reading headlines on their
devices.

RYAN
"Revolutionary Tech Company
Embraces Chaos." We're famous!

JESSICA
The toaster pre-orders alone will
keep us afloat for a year.

SARAH
I can't believe this worked.

MIKE
Should we tell them the AI really
does think it's a toaster?

DAVID
(looking at numbers)
At these profit margins? Let it
think it's a waffle iron for all I
care.

PARTY ELON enters, still in costume.

PARTY ELON
Hey, do you guys need a Chief Magic
Officer?

Everyone laughs.

SARAH
You know what? Why not. Welcome to

the team.

EMILY

I'll draft the press release: "Tech
Startup Hires Actual Wizard."

JESSICA

This is either the best or worst
decision we've ever made.

SARAH

In this company, those are usually
the same thing.

They all raise their coffee mugs in a toast.

ALL

To happy accidents!

FADE OUT.

THE END