

PROMPT AND PRAY

*How to Ship with AI Agents Without Losing Your Mind
(or Your Data)*

INSIGHTS FROM 100,000+ REAL DEVELOPER INCIDENTS

FOR

**Everyone who
ever typed a prompt,
held their breath,
and hoped for the best.**

*You built things. Some of them broke.
You fixed them by asking the AI to fix the fix.
They broke again.*

This is the book you needed before you started.

By the last page, you will know why things break.
You will know what to do about it.
No more rebuilding the same thing three times.
No more shipping blind.
No more praying after you prompt.

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are about what the tool actually is, before you trust it with anything that matters.

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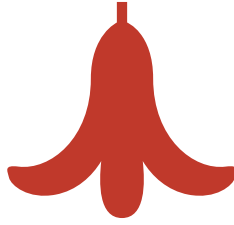
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PART I

The Ground Rules

Part I: The Ground Rules

What you're actually working with.

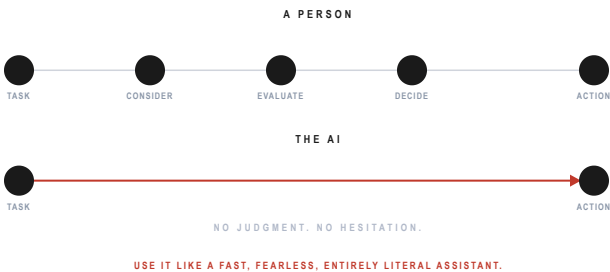
"A fool with a tool is still a fool."

— GRADY BOOCH

CHAPTER 1

It's Not Magic. It's Autocomplete That Thinks.

Most people who get frustrated with AI coding tools are frustrated for the same reason: they expected magic and got something more useful.



The AI is not thinking about your problem. It is not reasoning about the best way to build your feature. It is predicting the most statisti-

cally likely sequence of words to follow what you wrote. That sounds limiting. It isn't. It turns out that most of what we call "coding" is recognising patterns and assembling them in the right order. That is exactly what the AI is extraordinarily good at.

The mistake is expecting it to behave like a person. A person who doesn't know your project will ask questions. They'll hesitate before deleting something. They'll notice that the thing you asked for doesn't match what you actually need. The AI will do none of this. It will confidently produce exactly what you described, whether or not that's what you wanted.

The mental model that works: think of it as an exceptionally fast intern who has read every programming tutorial ever written and forgotten none of it. They have never shipped a product. No intuition about what could go

wrong. Will not push back when you're about to make a mistake. Brilliant at execution. Useless at judgment.

Once you accept that, you stop fighting the tool and start designing around it. You write clearer instructions because you know it can't read between the lines. You check the output because you know it can't tell whether it worked. You build in safeguards because you know it won't hesitate before doing something irreversible.

This is why "something more useful" isn't a consolation prize. Magic doesn't have predictable limits. You can't test it, document it, or build a reliable handoff around it. A tool that does one thing well can be designed around. You know where it helps. You know where it fails. That knowledge is what lets you ship with it.

The developers getting the most out of AI tools aren't the ones who found a magic prompt. They're the ones who adjusted their expectations to match what the tool actually is. They write clear tasks, check the output, and keep the judgment for themselves. The ones still frustrated are still waiting for the tool to be something it never was, and never will be.

Use it like a fast, fearless, entirely literal assistant – and design every task accordingly.

About the Author

Andreas Geißinger has shipped production projects with AI coding tools and spent a lot of time figuring out why things break, and what to do about it. He works with indie founders and early-stage teams who are building with AI agents and want to do it without losing their minds or their data.

He is the person you call when you need someone who has actually been in the trenches, made the mistakes, and has a mental model for what went wrong.



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Work With Andreas

If you are a founder or a small team building with AI agents and want help structuring the work: setting up safe workflows, avoiding the failure patterns in this book, and shipping without praying. Reach out.



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THIS IS NOT A BOOK ABOUT PROMPTS.

Every team that struggled with AI didn't pick the wrong
tool.

They lacked a mental model for how these systems fail.

Will you read it before you need it?