

THE ELEVATOR PITCH

Written by

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LOG-LINE: Two aspiring inventors get trapped in an elevator together on their way to a pitch meeting with a potential investor where they fight for a million dollars.

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INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

An elevator DINGS as ADRIAN (23) and STEWART (22) walk into an elevator with BACKPACKS on. There is a poster outside of the elevator that reads "Palo Alto Young Inventors Contest: Winner wins \$1,000,000 for their creation!"

Adrian is an MIT graduate who has had a passion for inventing and engineering since he was 3. He started with legos and has made hundreds of original creations since then. When he was 7 he scared a group of intruders away with his inventions, just like in "Home Alone".

Stewart is a Stanford graduate who used to get bullied in school for being a "mathlete" and captain of the school's robotics team but got revenge on students by creating elaborate creations to get back at them such as the "Apple Cannon" and the "Self Destructing Textbook".

Adrian and Stewart both reach and press floor 32, the top floor, at the same time. They awkwardly stand there as the elevator starts going up. Then, a beat.

STEWART

Palo Alto Young Inventors Contest?

Adrian looks up at Stewart. A beat.

ADRIAN

Yup.

They both go back to standing there awkwardly. No phones, no talking, just standing there and looking at the ground. Stewart looks up.

STEWART

So what's your pitch?

Adrian looks up to make eye contact.

ADRIAN

My pitch?

STEWART

Yes your pitch.

Adrian takes off his backpack and unzips it. He pulls out a pillow with a retractable plastic stick and a plastic canopy.

ADRIAN

I call it "The Pillow Umbrella". A pillow with a retractable umbrella built into it, perfect for staying dry while napping outdoors.

Stewart cracks a smile.

STEWART

So your invention is only usable
for sleeping outside in the rain?

ADRIAN

Precisely.

STEWART

When the fuck would anyone ever use
that?

ADRIAN

Well if you think mine is so bad
why don't you show me yours huh.

STEWART

I thought you'd never ask. This
one's gonna change the world.

Stewart has a cheeky grin on his face as he pulls out a small
outfit with a mop head attached to the stomach of it.

STEWART (CONT'D)

Introducing the "Baby Mop Onesie".
A onesie for babies with mop-like
material on the bottom. As your
baby crawls around, they clean the
floor. It's baby-powered
housecleaning!

Adrian's mouth drops. He starts laughing hysterically.
Stewart's smiling and passionate body language drops and he
put's on a "seriously?" face. Stewart patiently waits while
Adrian laughs the hardest he ever has in his life.

Through laughter Adrian speaks.

ADRIAN

So this was the life changing
invention you made that's going to
change the trajectory of mankind.

Stewart angrily snaps back.

STEWART

Well it's more likely to change the
trajectory of mankind than
something meant for napping
outdoors!

Adrian stops laughing and a beat.

ADRIAN

Well what about homeless people.
How are they supposed to sleep?

STEWART

So you're marketing your product to
homeless people? How are they going
to buy it?

ADRIAN

Well you're marketing your product
to shitty parents who are using
their child as a personal Roomba.

STEWART

I'm marketing my product to GENIUS
parents who trust human
intelligence more than robots. You
sell your product to broke people
who can't afford to keep rain out
of their face.

Adrian takes his pillow and smacks Stewart across the face
with it.

ADRIAN

Don't you wish you had something to
keep this out of your face.

Adrian keeps hitting Stewart over and over with the pillow.
In efforts to get Adrian to stop hitting him, Stewart grabs
the pillow and breaks the plastic umbrella off of the pillow.

A beat as Adrian looks at his broken invention, the one he
was going to pitch for millions. He looks back at Stewart and
charges at him, stripping the mop onesie away and tearing it
in two.

DING!

They arrive at floor 32 and the elevator opens and Adrian and
Stewart just stand there with each others broken inventions
in each others hands, a mutual look of regret and
acknowledgment of their immaturity.

Stewart now has a black eye and a missing tooth. Adrian now
has a bloody nose, visible damage to his face, and a chunk of
his hair missing.

Adrian and Stewart look at each other and give a sad nod.
They both press the floor 1 button in sync and retreat to
standing in the elevator quietly. The elevator doors close.

FADE OUT.