

The days where it was difficult to navigate the sales floor of Cruz Cycling with a backpack and textbooks in hand were good days.

That was what Theo had to remind himself as he dodged the many customers his sales agents were helping as he tried to carry his business school textbooks to the back office where he would do administrative work for the next several hours. He spent Monday and Wednesday mornings at college in his Business Administration courses. If he wasn't in class, he was here.

Theo made his way to the stairs, leading up to the offices in the loft space above. As he pushed the door open, he saw his frazzled looking mother surrounded by creased papers and empty envelopes.

"Theo, thank goodness," she commented. "I can't find our business license, and we got a call this morning. Some inspector is looking for it."

Theo took a deep breath as he dumped his books on his desk in his office before heading back out to his mom. "Mama, are you sure the phone call was legit? All of our business documentation is digital."

Based on the look on his mom's face, she hadn't even considered it could be a scam.

Theo sighed. "Do you have the inspector's contact information? I'll give them a call and take care of it. There are an awful lot of customers out there today, and I'm sure you would rather be out there with them."

His mom handed him the scrap of paper that she had taken the message on. Theo didn't miss the look of pure relief on her face. "I don't know what I would have done if you hadn't come home when Eli died. I'm hopeless when it come to doing any of the administrative things."

Theo flinched as his mom mentioned his brother. He and Eli hadn't always seen eye to eye. Eli had spent hours at their dad's side when they were growing up, learning the business side of running their, at the time, small cycling store. Theo had always been more interested in the bicycles than the business. He only worked enough shifts in the family store to pay the entry fees in the cycling races he signed himself up for. When he started winning, he used the prize money to enter more and more races, working fewer and fewer shifts in the store. Before Theo knew it, he had sponsorships and was racing for a professional team, while Eli was expanding Cruz Cycling to more cities in the Bay Area.

But when Eli died, his mom had struggled to continue running their family business. The vultures had immediately begun circling, and she was too nice and naïve to recognize what they were trying to do. Theo's wife Ava hadn't been very happy about his decision to give up racing and move home to help his mom, but she helped him move their small family of three to California.

Theo picked up the phone on his desk, dialing the number on the piece of paper that his mom had handed him. He couldn't let the family legacy die with his brother.