

Alexis Minor
Religion 101
#REL101

When Covid-19 first hit, much like many others, it rocked my traditional world. I have been a bartender for almost eight years, and Covid wiped that clean away. I am a single mother, at the time of a 1-year-old baby boy, and I did not have a backup plan in place. I was a sitting duck; but something clicked within me during all my spare time of just focusing on being a mom. I realized that when things would eventually go back to normal, I'd have to sacrifice a lot of my precious time that I had been investing in my son. Not only that, but I truly enjoyed the freedom of waking up every morning with no real commitments, and not having a boss. Consequently, I did what I felt would yield the best results, so I went back to school. As someone who did not go to college directly after high school, it seemed like the perfect move. I already knew what I wanted to major in, Philosophy, and I already knew that I wanted to attend ASU. So I did just that; for a while I was happy. I loved being back in school and took great pride in finally getting back to something so many claim you can't do because I took off for 6 years. But it still didn't make me feel like I would end up in a position that I wanted, I needed more. Throughout these thoughts, and the exhaustion of going back to school, I went to get a massage. During the massage, the therapist and myself exchanged the different aspects of Covid, and how drastically our lives have changed. Which led me to ask her, "How did you start massage therapy?" She stated that she had gone to school in the establishment above our very heads and raved about how amazing of an experience it was. That turned wheels in my head, and I told her I would investigate it. For me, it was simply an easier way to pay my bills and be my own boss. After I investigated, I realized that it was something affordable, and would only take six months to conquer. I set into work, had to take a semester off from ASU, but per my advisor's advice, it was a good idea; so, I leaped in headfirst. At first, the course was easy, I found a passion for massaging I would have never known I had, though they highly recommended not going into your own business right away because it wouldn't yield the results, you'd think it would. It's hard to retain clientele, the expenses would be costly, and unless I knew of a great area to be in, it was essentially self-sabotage. Obviously, this led me to investigate spas/salons where I felt I would fit in, and I found it. Destination Kohler Water Spa, in Kohler, WI. A Forbes 5 star rated spa, which had my name all over it. I excitedly applied, within two weeks I was hired, and was set to start two months later. (As I had to wait for my license to process and receive it from the state). When it came, I was beyond ecstatic, the hour long drives there and back bothered me none. I was overjoyed to be a part of a team that I knew would excel me. Unfortunately, after a short month and a half, I no longer enjoyed being there. It was extremely rigorous, so many steps to a massage sequence that took the joy of giving a massage away for me, plus I would be massaging a bunch of wealthy, very opinionated people, which was not my cup of tea. One day, when I was in the middle of training, I couldn't fight the urge to just leave, so I did. After, I listed myself on Thumbtack as a traveling massage therapist and took the leap of faith. Within my first week, I was booked out for the next two weeks. Now, here I am, only four months later, and I have my own studio; I am looking to buy my first duplex with my boyfriend, and I make my own schedule. Meaning I work when I want, charge what I want, still go to school full time, all while also bartending part time at a very popular bar. In the

end, Covid turned out to be the biggest blessing I never knew I needed. I can spend time with my son whenever I want, make enough money to pay my bills, stack my money, and go on a nice vacation here & there. My message to you all, find something you love to do, and DO IT. I have lost friends, cut off some family, and I would do it all again if it meant I'd have the happiness I currently do. I love massaging, I love bartending, and I love that I am obtaining my goals. I believed in myself before anybody else, which was the key to my success. So please, for YOUR health, YOUR life, YOUR happiness, have faith in YOU.