Wednesday, September 18th, 2019:

Lori Vallow messaged me through care.com responding to an ad I posted looking for work. She said she was interested in me nannying or babysitting Josh and gave me her phone number. It is easier to text then to message through the app, so we continued our conversation through text message. I don't have those texts, so I am going off memory about what we talked about. She asked me to come over for an interview to see if I could handle watching JJ since he has autism… I went over to their townhome and met Lori and JJ around 2:00 pm. She was wearing workout clothes but looked well put together and happy. She was very welcoming and gave me a hug. Their home was clean and had a picture of a temple on the wall. She explained to me, as we watched JJ play outside with the neighbor kids, some of his tendencies. He gets emotional easily, frustrated, distracted, has difficulty communicating with others, but can follow orders if you look at him right in the eyes. She explained to me how they recently moved here from Arizona. Her husband had just died of a heart attack and how JJ doesn't quite understand the situation. Lori said how she and her husband adopted JJ and that he was her nephew. Her daughter also lives in Rexburg and is going to college. She said her daughter doesn't like to babysit JJ without being paid so she wanted me to work for her. Occasionally her daughter would come visit for dinner or to do laundry, but she never said that she lived there with them. It appeared that only Lori and JJ lived there, from the look of things and from what she told me. She then showed me how their tv worked, some options for food to make him, and activities we could do in the future (like go to gravity factory). She then mentioned how the next day she needed me to come over for a few hours to watch JJ while she went to the airport to pick up a friend. I told her I was available and could come over. We communicated payment methods, which for her was cash. Usually people I work for use Venmo, but she said the best for her was cash. I then left and returned the next day. My overall impression of her was that she was kind but seemed stressed out being a newly widowed mom alone with her autistic son.

Thursday, September 19th, 2019:

I returned to their townhome and parked in the back by their garage, where the visitor parking was. I don't remember seeing any other cars. When I walked inside, she mentioned how she was waiting for her brother to come and leave with her to the airport. She said she was going to the Idaho Falls airport. She said her brother also lived here in Rexburg. She mentioned how if she got home later to give JJ his medicine right before bed because it makes him tired fast. She joked about how she liked that because some days when he was extra tough for her to handle, she would give him his meds and have him go to bed early to give her a break. Then her brother came over and was quiet, just said hello and then they left. JJ was upset about her leaving and went into the garage. I followed him to make sure he didn't block the garage from closing. I vaguely saw her car and that she drove. The rest of my time there was pretty relaxed and JJ just played with the other kids outside. He followed the kids that were about 2 years younger than him because they were more on his mental level. They played hide and go seek, would play with toys, etc. A lot of the time he seemed to be in his own little world kind of talking to himself. He had this toy he really loved called "ducky". It was a toy him and his mom made from toy story. He loved it and carried it everywhere with him. She earlier explained to me how she had to order certain parts for the toy to make it complete. Eventually it was time for dinner and I fed him easy mac and cheese. He didn't eat much because he wanted to go play with the other kids. I had to lock the door and the top lock to prevent him from leaving before his dinner was finished. Lori said she had to put on 2 locks because sometime JJ escapes. Once I felt like he ate enough I let him go back outside to play. He later ended up at the neighbor's house and I tidied up Lori's house while he was there. Once I finished, I went to go get JJ from the next-door neighbor's house. He was good friends with their son and played with him often. When I went to go get him the friend seemed upset about a dispute over toys, JJ

wouldn't share, or something Joshua did, upset his friend. He told JJ while I was there, that he didn't want to play with him and that he didn't want him over at their house anymore. We left and this upset JJ greatly. He started crying and screaming. I tried to calm him down, distract him with a show, tell him how sometimes people need a break, and how he needs to share. He threw the chair from their wooden table down, flipped the ottoman over by their couch, and then ran upstairs. I let him cry for a bit, hoping he would calm down, but he didn't. I felt I should check on him to make sure he wouldn't hurt himself or break anything so I went upstairs. I quickly found him under the bed in his mom's room. He also had a room upstairs but from what I remember it just had toys in it and no bed. Lori's room appeared normal, she had a large bed, bathroom, and it looked clean. Although something kind of strange was that there was a small mattress in the corner where JJ slept. It was pretty thin, the size of a twin mattress, with sheets and a pillow. There was a mirror hanging above the mattress in the corner, as JJ ran up from under the bed he went toward the mirror and knocked it off the wall. Hoping it didn't break glass all over the mattress, I picked it up. While doing so he ran back downstairs. As I went back downstairs, JJ was still upset and said his mom wouldn't want me to come over again, that he hated me, and didn't want to be my friend. Shortly after this freak out his mom, her brother, and the friend walked in from the garage. The mom calmed JJ and asked me what happened. I explained the situation and she babied him, as if he could never do no wrong. It felt a little overwhelming the amount of love she was showing him instead of trying to teach him and calm him. She introduced her friend to me and said that she does podcasts of some sort. I didn't see a suitcase, so I don't think she was staying that long. Lori then thanked me for coming and paid me in cash about $40. We didn't discuss another time for me to babysit because of the situation with JJ, but we had this unspoken knowledge that I would continue babysitting for her. From what we had talked about yesterday that was what she seemed to be needing, was nearly daily assistance from me. This was the last day I saw JJ and Lori.

Tuesday, September 24th, 2019:

I think this day I must've texted Lori about coming back and working more, because I was hoping to keep earning money... Anyways, she responded to me that JJ was with his grandparents for a month and that she was in Hawaii. She said in about a month, when they come back, that I could work again. Well once that month passed, I texted her again around Halloween time, asking if I could work. There was no response. I was upset that she didn't respond because it has been hard for me to find a job. I thought it was pretty weird that they just up and left for a month and didn't need me to work ever again after just hiring me. It seemed irresponsible for a mother to dump her kid off to the grandparents while she had a good time in Hawaii. I assumed she must have really needed a break from JJ I guess, and I left it at that. That was the last time I ever communicated with Lori.