{Man Brings Pizza To Teen's House, Meets Chris Hansen Instead}

A man thought he had a pizza date at a teen's house, but instead he found Chris Hansen waiting.

A man drove two and half hours from Boston to Fairfield, Connecticut, to meet what he believed to be a 13 year old girl, but instead he found himself meeting Chris Hansen, journalist and former host of the infamous hidden camera show "To Catch a Predator."

44-year-old <u>Jeff Sokol</u> had no idea the trouble he was getting himself into when he began sending messages to whom he believed to be a thirteen year old girl named Bailey. <u>Divorced for 10 years</u>, Sokol was working as an insurance auditor after failing to find a job in sports management, and described himself as a "<u>master of puppets</u>" on LinkedIn, a reference to a Metallica song. What Sokol didn't know was that he was actually speaking with a decoy social media account set up by Hansen, law enforcement, and a watchdog group with the intent of catching sexual predators preying on minors for the syndicated TV show "Crime Watch Daily".

Almost immediately, Sokol's conversation with the decoy 13-year-old girl gets raunchy, and he begins asking her invasive and personal questions about her sex life. At some point, Sokol does become suspicious that the girl he's speaking to may not be real and makes a specific photo request from her to prove she isn't a cop. After receiving his requested selfie, Sokol admits that he knows what he's doing is illegal and is aware that he could go to jail for his actions. During his chats with this decoy girl, Sokol claims that if they get married, he wouldn't be breaking the law. He even goes as far as to suggest eloping with her.

Finally, Sokol and Bailey agree to meet, and with pizza in one hand and a marriage contract in another, Sokol walks into a sting house filled with hidden cameras. The girl waiting for him is actually a 19-year-old theater student, and Sokol even tells her that she looks different from her photos. After some small talk, the girl walks off into another room and a moment later, Chris Hansen emerges, much to Sokol's surprise.

What follows is a tense and awkward exchange between the two, as Hansen confronts Sokol over his intentions that night. Sokol seems relaxed and cocky at first, eating pizza while demanding to know who Hansen is, all the while insisting he did nothing wrong. Hansen, of course, is prepared and reads back the messages Sokol

sent to the decoy social media account, and repeatedly confronts Sokol over his intentions to have sex with a 13-year-old, to which Sokol insists he was only coming to hang out. At this point Sokol believes that Hansen is law enforcement of some kind.

In a jaw dropping moment, Hansen continues to prod at Sokol, who insists that his intentions were not sexual, but then admits that he would marry a thirteen year old if the <u>relationship worked out</u>. Chris Hansen picks this moment to reveal who he is and that Sokol is under investigation. Sokol is stunned silent for a moment but quickly regains his composure and even asks Hansen if he would like a <u>slice of pizza</u>, something Hansen admits had never happened to him before.

Soon after, Sokol is taken into police custody and a search of his car unveils a male sexual enhancement pill. During his police interview, Sokol displayed the same cocky attitude he had with Hansen, and maintains that even though the law says a 44-year-old man can not have relations with an underage child, that he was not there for that purpose or for any sexual reason.

Jeff Sokol seemed to believe that he would escape any charges, but after going through three lawyers, he was sentenced to two-and-a-half-years in prison. Sokol's encounter with Chris Hansen went viral on social media, with the restaurant he picked his pizza up from seeing a boom in business as a result. After getting out of prison, Sokol unsuccessfully attempted to change his name to escape his internet infamy. According to an unverified reddit post, Sokol eventually had to move out of his apartment and now lives with his parents.

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