

# The City

# The "Base" Metaphor Explained

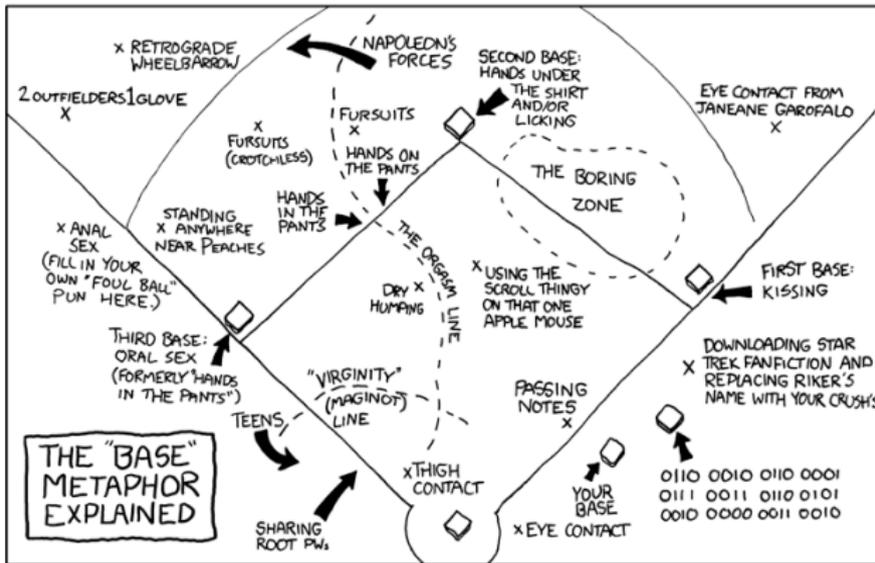
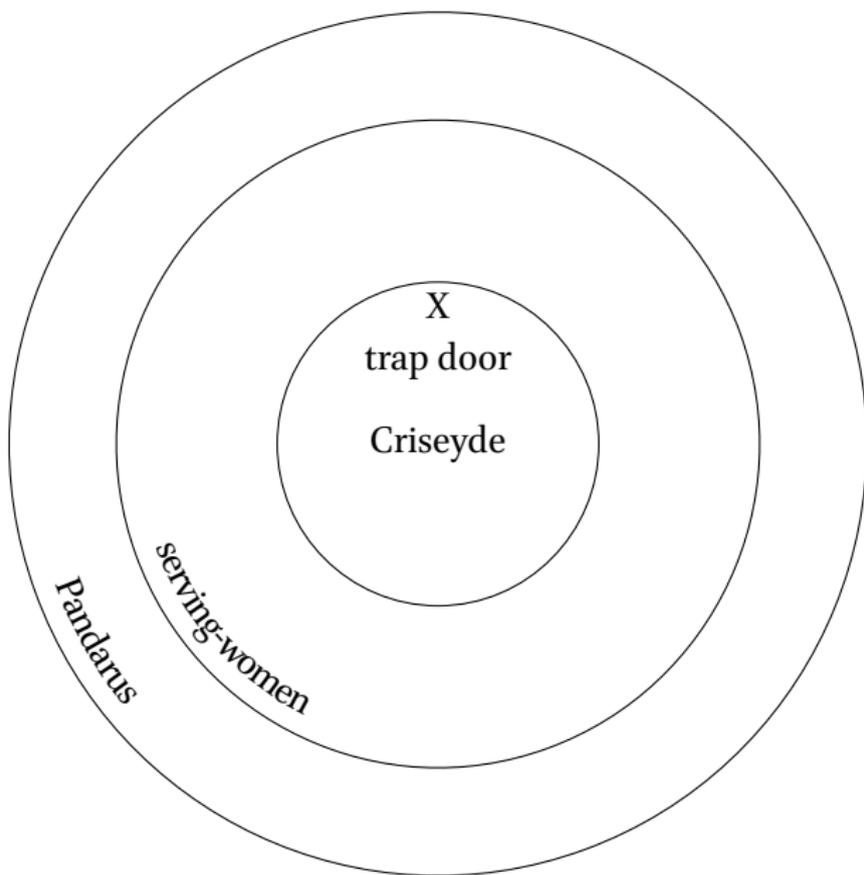


Figure: "Base System", CC-BY-NC Randall Munroe

# The Five Steps of a Love Affair

- ▶ Horace (s. I BCE) suggested five stages
  - ▶ Ovid's *Ars amatoria* (2 CE) encourages systemacy, offers no list
  - ▶ Porphyrio (s. II AD) and Donatus (s. IV) named the five
  - ▶ By the twelfth century, their list of five was commonplace (e.g. Abelard)
1. *Visus* (sight)
  2. *Alloquium* (address)
  3. *Contactus* (physical contact)
  4. *Osculum* (kiss)
  5. *Factum* (sex)

# The Curious Architecture of Pandarus's House



# The Five Steps in *Troilus*

1. *Visus*:
  - ▶ At the temple (T sees C)
  - ▶ Out in front of C's palace (T and P make sure C sees T)
  - ▶ C sees T from her window as he rides in from the war
2. *Alloquium* (address)
  - ▶ At Deiphebus's house, where T lies "sick"
  - ▶ At Pandarus's house, in C's bedroom
3. *Contactus* (physical contact)
  - ▶ At Pandarus's
4. *Osculum* (kiss)
  - ▶ At Pandarus's
5. *Factum* (sex)
  - ▶ At Pandarus's

(In Criseyde's next relationship, they all take place in a single tent.)

## Criseyde's Reluctance

“ For the sake of the debate, Chaucer here uses Criseyde to epitomize the three legitimate lives open to medieval women, together with their appropriate habitats: **the quiet life at home for widows**; the life of **holy women dwelling in caves**, devoting themselves to prayer and spiritual reading; the lives of **'maydens' and 'yonge wyves' dancing** in palaces like Criseyde's:

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It sattle me wel bet ay in a cave  
To bidde and rede on holy seyntes lyves;  
Lat maydens gon to daunce and yonge wyves.

(Nolan 65)

”

# Nolan

- ▶ Chaucer's urban setting, like his plot, derives from Boccaccio's *Filostrato*
- ▶ Already Boccaccio uses the navigation of urban space to suggest sexual conquest
- ▶ Chaucer transfers the agency to Pandarus
- ▶ Chaucer creates two new settings, taking the focus off Criseyde's palace:
  - ▶ The house of Troilus's brother Deiphebus
  - ▶ Pandarus's house
- ▶ Nolan suggests Chaucer's use of *dwellen* recalls its OE/ON senses, which include "err, go astray"

## Bibliography I

Nolan, Barbara. "Chaucer's Poetics of Dwelling in *Troilus and Criseyde*." In *Chaucer and the City*, edited by Ardis Butterfield, 57–75. Cambridge: Brewer, 2006.



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