

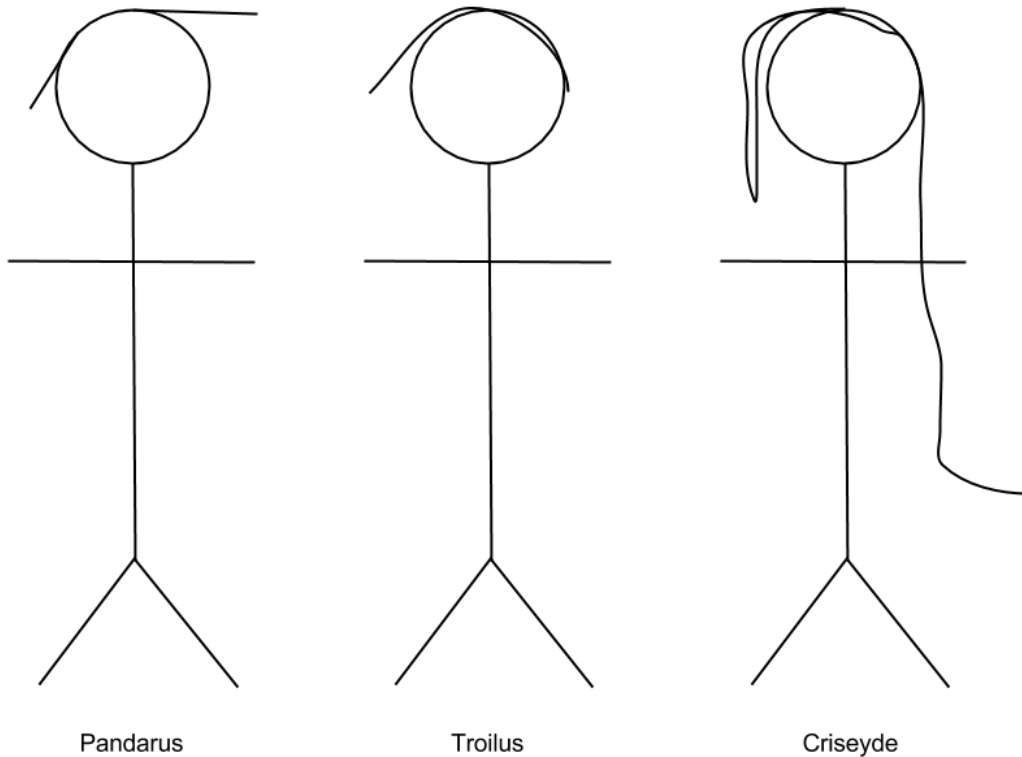
The Only Obvious Choice  
Lisel M Kraft

## Characters:

Pandarus - A creepy, conniving, cunning and largely inappropriate and lewd puppetmaster. He has the look of a greasy used car salesman.

Troilus - An unsure, malleable, dramatic, hopelessly hopeful individual. He is handsome, but insecure.

Criseyde - A confident, independent, self-assured woman, reluctant to sacrifice her sense of self. She wears combat boots, has a severe asymmetrical haircut and exudes strength.



### Setting:

Set in modern times, the set is minimalist and consists mostly of an empty stage, save scenes which include a bed. The bed is much too small--for a child or an adult.

### Scene Listing:

Scene 1: Opening Tableau

Scene 2: Troilus Sees Criseyde

Scene 3: Troilus Laments

Scene 4: Pandarus and Troilus Plot

Scene 5: Pandarus Pulls the Strings

Scene 6: Criseyde Reflects

Scene 7: The Bedroom

## Scene 1: Opening Tableau

*[The stage is empty of set pieces. At lights up, three figures stand separated on the stage. Criseyde and Troilus stand downstage looking off in opposite directions, oblivious of each other. Behind them stands Pandarus.]*

Pandarus: *Looks slowly from Criseyde to Troilus and back again, a look of cunning on his face, wringing his hands as he plots.*

Criseyde: *Stands confidently, staring off into the distance. She has one hand on her hip. She seems thoughtful, but wears a slight smirk and her eyes are bright.*

Troilus: *Stands with shoulders hunched forward. He does not smile, but wears a look that suggests he is lost and unsure.*

*[All characters hold positions in scene for several moments, then Pandarus and Troilus exit in opposite directions. Criseyde doesn't see either other character exit. She stands for a moment longer and then exits as well.]*

## Scene 2: Troilus Sees Criseyde

*[The lights come up on Criseyde seemingly alone on the stage. She resumes her earlier position. Known only to the audience, Pandarus stands at the back of the stage, watching the scene.]*

Troilus: *Enters from the opposite side of the stage. His mind seems otherwise occupied until he comes within a few steps of Criseyde. He then notices her and stops abruptly, tripping over his own feet in the meantime. He openly stares at Criseyde and places the back of his hand to his forehead, as if in a swoon.*

Criseyde: *Criseyde exits the stage.*

Troilus: *Troilus looks about him frantically after Criseyde exits. Once he is sure no one has seen him, he follows Criseyde off of the stage at a half run.*

### Scene 3: Troilus Laments

*[A comically small bed is set on the otherwise empty stage.]*

Troilus: *Enters the stage and walks to the bed. He flings himself upon it. His arms and legs hang off of the sides. He resumes his woebegone swoon of the previous scene and heaves a deep sigh.]*

### Scene 4: Pandarus and Troilus Plot

Pandarus: *Enters the stage and seems surprised to find Troilus in such a state. He crosses to the bed and attempts to lift Troilus off of it.*

Troilus: *Unwilling or unable to summon the will to move, Troilus falls back to the bed in a heap.*

Pandarus: *Gestures to Troilus with a look that seeks to summon an explanation for Troilus' behavior.*

Troilus: *Covers his heart with one hand momentarily, then mimes pulling it out of his chest and crushing it to dust, which he flings dramatically away from them both. He sits up and lets loose another deep sigh.*

Pandarus: *Catching on, Pandarus widens his eyes in mock surprise, then elbows Troilus and makes an hourglass gesture. He then turns back to Troilus for confirmation.*

Troilus: *Nods weakly and heaves another deep sigh.*

Pandarus: *Hold up one finger to indicate that he has an idea and then starts pointing at himself.*

Troilus: *Shakes his head, not understanding.*

Pandarus: *Gestures to Troilus, gestures to an imagined Criseyde, pulls both of his hands together in a gesture of union, and then points to himself again.*

Troilus: *Looking hopeful, nods wildly at Pandarus.*

*[Both exit.]*

Scene 5: Pandarus Pulls the Strings

*[Criseyde stands in her signature pose center stage. Pandarus enters SL.]*

Pandarus: *Walks up to Criseyde and without hesitation wraps her in a hug.*

Criseyde: *Clearly uncomfortable by the embrace, she ends it quickly.*

Pandarus: *In an air of ‘getting down to business’ he holds up one finger as though he has an idea and then strolls around Criseyde in a circle, stroking his chin.*

Criseyde: *Standing still, she watches Pandarus.*

Pandarus: *Pulls out of his pocket a picture of Troilus and hands it to Criseyde with a flourish.*

Criseyde: *Considers the photo, a look of caution on her face and then hands it back to Pandarus with a questioning look.*

Pandarus: *Refuses to take the photo back and instead gestures toward it again, raising and lowering his eyebrows suggestively.*

*Criseyde: Beginning to catch Pandarus' drift, she more insistently hands the picture back to Pandarus.*

*Pandarus: Takes the picture from Criseyde, but then immediately shoves it down her shirt as if to place it close to her heart.*

*Criseyde: Disgusted, she slaps Pandarus' hand away, removes the photo, throws it to the ground and gestures, in no uncertain terms, for Pandarus to get the hell out of there.*

*Pandarus: Exits SL.*

#### **Scene 6: Criseyde Reflects**

*[Criseyde remains standing center stage. She leans down and picks up the picture of Troilus that she dropped there. She considers the picture. Upstage of her, Pandarus pushes Troilus onto the stage and indicates that he should walk past Criseyde. Troilus does so without glancing at Criseyde and exits the stage. Pandarus remains upstage to watch the scene unfold.]*

*Criseyde: Watches as Troilus walks by, but does not call attention to herself. She considers how handsome he is. After Troilus' exit, Criseyde again considers the photo of Troilus she holds in her hand. She runs her thumb along the side of the photo, tracing the figure.*

*Pandarus: Walks downstage toward Criseyde and puts his hand on her shoulder. Criseyde is startled, but does not pull away. Pandarus gestures at the photo, then at Criseyde, then points toward himself.*

*Criseyde: Accepting Pandarus' offer, she nods.*

*[All exit.]*

## Scene 7: The Bedroom

*[The bed has returned to the stage and sits off to one side, as though in its own room. Pandarus and Troilus stand on the other side of the stage. It is apparent that Pandarus has been encouraging Troilus. Pandarus nods toward the bed and indicates that Troilus should go sit on it. Troilus does so, and Pandarus retreats upstage where he remains in the scene, but goes unnoticed by either Troilus or Criseyde, who enters shortly.]*

*Criseyde: Entering the stage from the side opposite the bed, she looks around questioningly and haltingly continues until she finds Troilus and the bed. It is clear that this is not the scene she expected to find when she came to this place. She is visibly outraged.*

*Troilus: Seeing that Criseyde is upset, he stands and starts toward her. She backs away from him.*

*Pandarus: Walks downstage to enter the room. His appearance halts Criseyde's departure. He points at Criseyde and then Troilus and makes an inappropriate sexual gesture that indicates what he had in mind all along.*

*[There is a brief pause while all characters are unmoving.]*

*Criseyde: Walks slowly up to Troilus, considers him for a moment, and then smacks him on the top of the head, as though scolding him. She then turns to Pandarus, slaps him across the cheek and exits the stage.*

*[Blackout.]*

*End*