I caught a Ludovician

[Jared Zeiders](#)
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For my final creative project, and alongside my final essay, I decided to enact a conceptual loop and attempt to capture the Ludovician.

To do this, I first had to identify the conceptual shark I was dealing with. Through a series of examinations previously listed in the digital annotation that is posted to the blog, I surmised that the Ludovician was an amalgamation of many different sources, to include but not limited to: Ludovico Einaudi, an Italian pianist and composer; The Ludovician Tables of M. de la Hire in the early to mid- 1700's, which attempt to chart the movements of celestial bodies through the sky, or the Loggerhead Shrike, a small bird known for impaling its prey upon thorns and sharp twigs. Comprised of portions of each of these identities, the Ludovician Shark becomes an evolved reflection of culture, devouring the past in place and leaving a simulacra wake.

How then does one create a conceptual loop? The simplest way is to create a physical variant of the trap and transfer it into the conceptual realm. To do this, I wrote an essay on the ways in which ideas can transition between the conceptual and the material, and how this allows one to act upon them. In the essay I included reference to a letter and material weapons that would allow Eric to fight against the Ludovician. I also included reference to a place wherein lies a trap-in-waiting, which will spring the moment the letter is opened. This trap, refers back to the beginning of the story where it is described that the Ludovician was found down in a pit with other dying sharks. This loop confines the shark within the story itself, not allowing it to escape. By including aspects of both the reality of *The Raw Shark Texts* and the reality in which I was assigned an essay to write, I have passed an idea from the conceptual to the material realm.

The next step was to create the weaponry that would be needed to fight off a conceptual shark. Weaponry could only be effective after first bringing the Ludovician into the physical world. To do this, measurement

is required. By creating empirical data about a subject, that subject becomes finite and measurable, and thus not-conceptual. Using a 1966 Royal typewriter, I dismembered the machinery and reassembled the parts as a variety of different tools with which to protect oneself. I found a passable case and assembled a toolbox. Including some daggers, a harpoon gun and various conceptual explosives, perhaps the most important weapon inside was the letter from Eric Sanderson. Letter #301. In this letter, Sanderson writes to a later version of himself explaining the disappearance of Clio and Fedorous, as well as

including instructions on the utilization of the weaponry. This letter creates a conceptual loop within the weaponry by referring to the essay, which in turn refers back to the letter. While extremely effective, this type of psycho-static feedback loop comes at a very high price. Eric Sanderson has to die. The person that opens the loop in the presence of the Ludovician will be able to hold the quantified data, and thus the Ludovician, indefinitely. However, this means that this person, which will be Mr. Sanderson, will be unable to escape as well.

I tried to find a way in which Eric could get out. In which he could be free. I really wanted to be able to help them all–Fidorous, Clio– but I guess you can't always save everyone. With Regret and Hope.

(Received: 21st September)
Letter# 301

Dear Eric,
A man lives so many different lengths of time. I hope this never reaches you. I recognize that I say that only for my own catharsis, because if anyone (read: you) ever reads this, it means that everything has failed, and that the Ludovician has evolved again, this time into something much, much worse. There's no telling what form it will take, or how easily it will be able to pass between; I know only that it will pose you a great threat.
I trust that by this time you've already found The First's letters. Read them, reread them. Digest them completely, especially the third one, about the non-divergent conceptual loops and the Dictaphones and whatnot. Then touch again on #4, #17, #44, #58 and #59. You're going to need it. The Dictaphones are

especially useful in keeping the Ludovician at bay. Most of the rest of the stuff in those letter won't do you a damn bit of good, but read it anyway.

Fidorous is gone. Dead maybe, but definitely gone. I really tried man, tried to keep him alive, time and time again I tried. And it never works. Just like with her. It's just a loop, and there's nothing that changes. I think we recognized that around #4. He didn't last long, once he realized that. Just sort of curled up and died. But you won't do that, because we already know it didn't work.

But maybe there's something that will. I made some weapons that should help you, though I can't guarantee exactly how effective they will be. I haven't had the time to try them, and that itself is my most precious commodity. Scout had the right mindset—you remember her, don't you? Damnit, REMEMBER ERIC! Scout! Yes. Her. The motorbike. The letterbombs. They work, for a time. And that means that other things can work too.

Below are instructions for the weaponry. I've also included a detailed conceptual theory-in-the-making about how to effectively ground the conceptual shark in the material plane in order to measure, quantify, and thus destroy the Ludovician once and for all. There within is also included a list of parts used in creating this weaponry should you have any need to replicate any of it. I've entitled it The Malleus Ludovica.

Instructions:

1. *Letterbombs require their fuse be lit for maximum damage. Use wooden matches for best result. Fuse time = 3 seconds.*

2. *The Tab Grenade is intended to mask your path and is generally not of much use when in direct pursuit. The grenade will insert an infinite number of tabs in the space between you and anything trying to track you. Be wary if the shark exhibits symptoms of possessing a ctrl+alt+delete function as this will render the weapon useless.*

3. *The Spring Mine is a sub-conceptual theoretical explosive. The item will replicate itself if exposed to any kind of academic text, so place carefully.*

4. *The Hand-Harpoon Gun is loaded with the contained bolts. Descriptions of each bolt as well as specific precautions for handling is available on the attached insert. THESE THINGS ARE DANGEROUS. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY.*

5. *The Shark Dagger and Harpoon are you best weapons against the Ludovician. By grounding the creature in materiality, you become able to take measures and determine empirical data which will allow you to act on the creature as you see fit.*

This is all that I have for you. I've left you everything that I can. I'm sorry it's not much.
R&H,
Eric