

Episode 10

Episode 10 is yet another 10/10 episode that's packed with theming and expertly adds on to the previous arc.

Kaiji's situation has only been made worse and he's shit on by his manager and by society as a whole. He would rather alienate himself rather than put up a facade of happiness. As Sahara suggests, a lot of society is all talk and doesn't understand real struggle (*cue communism*). In the midst of all this Kaiji has had a gambling attitude instilled within him and his inquisitiveness has only improved since Espoir, shown by how he deduced that Sahara stole the money. Sahara himself is also quite perceptive.

The recruiting process repeats and Kaiji can't back up his words because he's tired of his situation and doesn't believe in himself. He's not a masochist after all. Endou is more directly persistent this time, calling Kaiji trash and lazy and hence unable to take control of his own fate. Kaiji's apartment is dirty and it's like he's some stray dog fumbling around in a garbage can. The series again uses those coloured visuals and Endou slams money down on the table with strong sound effects. He begs Kaiji to grab the money and put Kaiji's future into his own hands.



The music has become slightly more diverse and Memories is played for the first time at the end, which is matched well with what's happening on-screen. I love the track and I've been listening to it a lot lately so it was great to hear it, and most of it too. It's a shame that you can hear where they shortened it but oh well.

With this, Kaiji can save himself once again. He can stop drowning. He can reach for the stars which has a metaphorical meaning but also means money since the Espoir gamble

used stars. He delves into the darkness in order to find the way to the light. **CHASING THE LIGHT INTENSIFIES**

[Kaiji OST - Memories](#)

Episode 11

We live in a society.



crunch

Episode 12

Even though Kaiji tries to rationalise pushing the person he absolutely refuses to! He knows deep down that his rationalisation is wrong and that's epic. He would rather be pushed and stay true to his emotions. Humans are more than monsters. This appeals to my core beliefs. I also find it interesting how he mentions bullying and we're shown how he was bullied in school. This probably contributed to him feeling like he couldn't amount to anything.

Money being worth more than life is a pretty dark point but my optimistic mindset has determined that it has holes because we don't just want to improve our lives in order to gain money but also enlightenment and personal happiness. Though Tonegawa really is right that ¥20,000,000 shouldn't be taken lightly and that you shouldn't be able to get it that easily. People do a lot to earn it and these slackers think they can get it that easily? It's a fair deal. Oh no, now I'm starting to think of them as trash and participate myself in SOCIETY and that's not something I want to do in this sense.



"It's just a game." is such a weak mindset.

Episode 13

The fear of death can save us, but it can also lead to our deaths.

Society likes to see others suffer because it reaffirms the safety of the elite and I'm quite glad that I'll never have to be in Kaiji's situation because I have safety nets. I'm also glad that I can watch the drama unfolding on my screen.

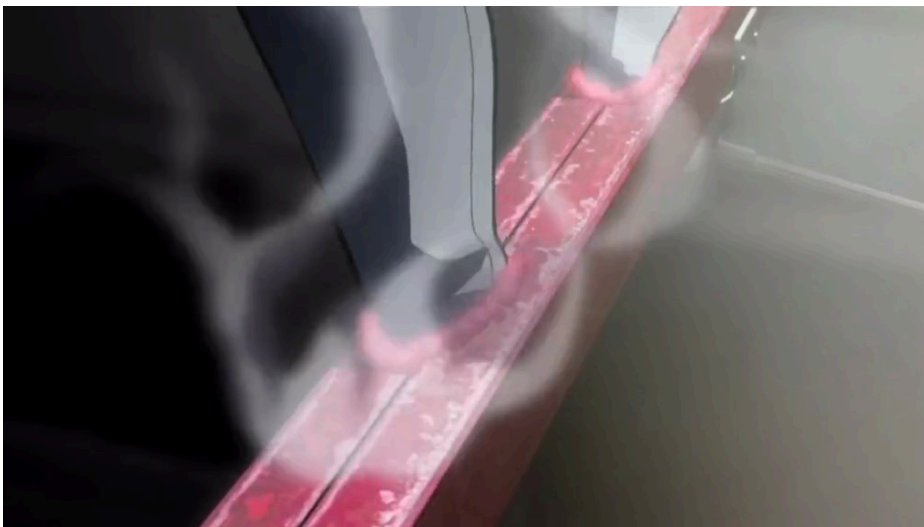
Wait a second...

I like the dramatic slow-motion first step when Nakamura starts. It marks the point of no return where the characters have committed and the stakes are officially binding. Tonegawa makes neat connections and he hasn't even gotten to his "they lives they lived were the real thing" speech yet, though it's been built up to.

The imagery ramped up. It wasn't just colour changes and a lot of it was delivered via the characters themselves. I'm curious as to what they look like in the manga. Just look at this kino:



The fear of death that controls all who live.



Kaiji as society's outcast rejects that money is more valuable than life. There really is nothing more important than living.

Sparks are ignited as Kaiji's tears fall on the beam and the situation itself becomes more terrifying. The music is timed perfectly to deliver a gut punch. Not to mention the SCREAMS OF FEAR! It's a sensory massacre. PAIN AND SUFFERING.

But they have no choice but to MOVE FORWARD! 前! 前! 前!

Episode 14

You have to be serious in life in order to get anywhere. The life you live is the real thing.

At the end of the previous episode and at the beginning of this one we're shown that despite everything that's happened so far, the people at the front are still only half-way there. Crazy.

The grim reaper comes! I feel bad for #6 who was taken down by #1. Shit sucks man.

Ishida managed to be the third-last one remaining and even saved himself once. It's quite the tragic death. When we're in desperate situations we show our true natures, and deep down he was a good human being. Truly based.



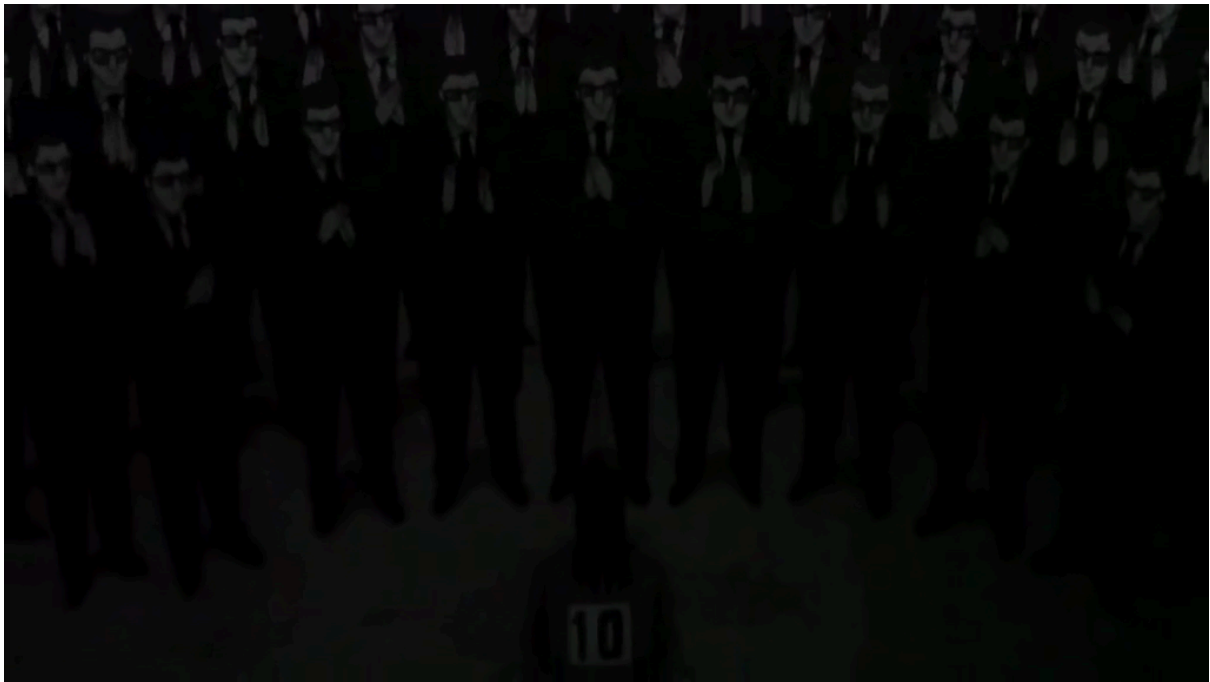
This would be where Kaiji goes Super Saiyan but (un)fortunately he's a human. Instead he takes a zoomed-in dramatic slow-motion step with his right foot and reaches out to Sahara.

I think everyone experiencing a particular kind of solitude isn't something to be afraid of. We will never be able to fully understand each other but we can accept that and not let it torment us. If we're able to express ourselves then we can feel warmth all the same.

I wasn't expecting Sahara to run on the beam but he somehow made it. If I didn't know what was going to happen I'd think Sahara would lose his grip and fall even though he was so close to the end.

Episode 15

I didn't like the ending. Sahara's death was pretty sudden and the glass path felt like it came out of nowhere. Only those who are desperate and lose sight of the goal will notice it? Hmm... It felt like a fairy had created a rainbow road to the top of the castle.



Holy shit is that a motherfucking Gospel of the New Century reference?! Also Lighting -9.8/10

It's both funny and sad that Kaiji just keeps getting fucked.

I think it transitioned into the new game too quickly and there should've been a break, however we do get more SOCIETY with peanut-nose. This is a different angle though and I haven't heard of this supposed paradox before. The more you wish to obtain from a king the more you subconsciously put them on a pedestal since they're able to provide the power. perhAps. I might think about it some more, or I might not.

Still a very good arc.