Click to prove you're human

Spoilers for Stranger Things Season 4, Volume 2 ahead.Now that Stranger Things Season 4 has concluded and the stage has been set for Vecna to wage war in the show's final season, fans still have questions about the fate of one of the show's best characters. Max Mayfield, played by young phenom Sadie Sink, was the surprise heart of the Netflix megahit's new season, as her grief and guilt after Billy's death placed the teen into Vecna's crosshairs. In Episode 4 of Volume 1, Max was the star of her own standout episode, which showcased her strength and bravery in the face of the Upside Down's ultimate Big Bad (and made us obsessed with Kate Bush).In Volume 2, the redhead tapped into her well of bravery and her dangerous connection with Vecna during the Hawkins crew's big attempt to take the villain down. In an emotional finale scene, she finally opened up about her mixed feelings and guilt about Billy's death while baiting the monster. She also found a non-musical way to briefly hold the villain off, by thinking of her happiest memory, which was being with Lucas at Season 2's middle school dance.Unfortunately, Max could only hold the villain off for so long. Even Eleven, who entered Max's mind to face Vecna herself, was not strong enough to keep the monster from completing his ritual. Even though Vecna succeeded at his master plan, El was able to save Max, with mixed results.Did Max die in Episode 9?Technically, yes. Max begins suffering the gory effects of Vecna's ritual—which include the victim's bones breaking and eyes bleeding—before Eleven taps into her power and blasts the monster away. As Eleven holds him off, Nancy's group flambés Vecna's physical body in the Upside Down (though the monster disappears and survives the attack). When Max is knocked out of the trend, she's already lost her eyesight and all her legs and arms are broken.In an emotional scene, Max is still conscious as Lucas begs her to "stay with me," and she even says that she's not ready to die. But she does. As Lucas says later, Max's heart doesn't beat for a full minute, during which Vecna's fourth gate is created and the barrier between Hawkins and the Upside Down is ripped open.Eleven is still with Max as she dies, staying by her side in the Void (the dark mental realm that El accesses when she uses the sensory deprivation tank). She's not ready to lose her friend, so she puts her hand on Max's chest and recalls their happiest moments together. When we next see Max, she's in a coma, in a Hawkins hospital room.Courtesy of NetflixIs Max alive at the end of Season 4?Physically, yes. Lucas tells his friends that Max is in a coma, and we see her wearing casts on her arms and legs. The Duffer brothers have also confirmed that at the end of Season 4, Max is alive yet "brain dead, blind, and all of her bones are broken."The big mystery is where the redhead is mentally. When Eleven later enters the Void to find Max, all she sees is darkness. When she screams Max's name, there's no answer. We don't know whether El succeeded in bringing Max back from death, or whether she only restarted her body's heart. Whether or not Max's soul is alive is a question that will hopefully be answered next season.Will Max be in Season 5?Though the cast and crew are sticking to their no-spoilers policy, Max has to be in Season 5. She may not be an original member of the show, but she's now an integral part of the series. As of now, even Sink doesn't know her character's fate."I'm not sure where we're going and what Max's state is. It's definitely all up in the air right now," the actress told Entertainment Weekly. "I'm just as excited as everyone else to find out where Max is and how she's doing."Sink shared her hopes for the character with Vulture, saying that if Max returns, she would have "a lot of fight in her.""I think she's at a place where she now really wants to fight," she said. "In episode nine, when she gave that monologue, she was ready to go and she was ready to make that ultimate sacrifice. … She knew that there was no way she was going to make it out alive, but the fact that she was willing to make that sacrifice was brutal and heartbreaking."She added, "If she's still out there, she definitely has a lot of rage and a lot of fight in her. So that's where my hope lies in Max for season five." Stranger Things season 4, Volume 2 ended with a bang – a long, long bang, seeing as the finale was way past the two-hour mark. As a result, the Stranger Things season 4 ending took some digesting, especially as we had only just recovered from discovering that Vecna/One/Henry Creel were all one and the same. So, don't be ashamed if you have a few questions, even if you've watched the last few episodes countless times already.And that's where we come in. While the creators prepare to write the show's final season, we take a look back at everything that happened during the climactic moments of season 4. There were deaths aplenty, and a few character fates left up in the air. So, get ready to go back into the Upside Down, as we go over the Stranger Things season 4 ending in detail. And be warned major Stranger Things season 4, Volume 2 spoilers ahead! Stranger Things season 4 ending explained: a recap *spoilers!* The final two episodes of Stranger Things season 4 are all focused on taking down Vecna. The result is a huge final battle, the characters working together from all over the globe to destroy the villain. Let's break down how we got there. You may like Hopper, Joyce, and Murray are back in Russia as they try to escape from the prison after the Demogorgon has gotten free. This takes them into the depths of the camp as they find out the guards have been experimenting on these creatures, with one on a dissection table, others in glass tubes, and Upside Down particles floating around. Our gang – along with Enzo and Uri – manage to find their way out through the toilet tunnel, hiding out in Uri's hideaway as they come up with a way to get out of the country. Their salvation seems to be a rusty helicopter, but it's mysteriously not working. After Hopper gets a call across to Hawkins, he finds out how much danger their children are in and they decide to come up with another plan. Their idea? Getting back into the prison camp that they just escaped. Joyce explains that if they kill the Demogorgans and the particles, then this should weaken the monster preying on Hawkins as it's all linked to the hive mind. The idea is that this might give the children just enough time to go through with their plan.Meanwhile, in Nevada, Eleven has learned the truth about Henry's origins and how she was responsible for sending him into the Upside Down – and thus creating Vecna. Reeling from this new knowledge, she regains her powers and she picks up NINA with her mind. El is back in business. And her first concern is making sure her friends are okay. She's desperate to get back to Hawkins to help them fight Vecna but Papa/Brenner (Matthew Modine) is convinced she is not ready yet. While Dr. Owens tries to tell him that it's up to her if she's ready to face this fight, a power struggle ensues as Owens starts to make the necessary plans to get El home, while Papa dampens her powers as he tries to stop her leaving. All the while, Sullivan and his government agency are on the way to take her down. They collide at the base in Nevada as Papa has a change of heart and tries to escape with Eleven only to be gunned down by a helicopter. Before they can take the shot on El, a pizza truck appears and distracts them, and Eleven uses her powers to bring down the soldiers. Papa dies as Eleven refuses to forgive him in his final moments.Bringing all the latest movie news, features, and reviews to your inboxMike, Will, Jonathan, and Argyle have finally found Eleven after they've been searching for her based on the coordinates given to them by Susie. Now that the gang's all back together, they try to work out how they'll return to Hawkins to save their friends. When all feels lost, Eleven comes up with a plan to help them from Nevada by using a sensory deprivation tank to "piggyback" off Max's mind and fight Vecna. Argyle has just the place as they head to the nearest Surfer Boy Pizza to convert a dough freezer and a lot of salt into what El needs.(Image credit: Netflix)While this is all happening, there are some pretty huge moments going on in the background. Hopper and Joyce finally admit their feelings for each other as they share their first kiss. Steve tells Nancy how he feels about her as he shares his hopes for their future together. Will tells Mike to trust in himself and his feelings for Eleven as he tearfully speaks about "feeling different" from other people. He later has a heart-to-heart with his brother Jonathan, who reassures him that he'll love him no matter what. Max and Lucas also finally speak through their feelings as they share an adorable plan to go to the movies together when this is all over. Back in Hawkins, the gang have a plan. They're going to use Max as bait to distract Vecna while Nancy, Steve, and Robin head to Henry's house in the Upside Down to attack his body. Here it all gets very Inception as everyone takes on their part of the plan in a different dimension. At first, it seems to be working, as Eleven helps Max fight Vecna in one of her memories. While this is happening, Dustin and Eddie distract the Demobats in the trailer park in the Upside Down to try and buy the others more time. But quickly everything starts to go wrong. The Demobats are getting in and Eddie decides to be a hero and distracts them by luring them to him, but he's too injured. By the time Dustin gets to him, it's too late as he dies in his arms. In Russia, Hopper is in mortal danger after he lures a Demogorgon into the fighting pitch. Murray rains down fire on them. Meanwhile, jock Jason has turned up to where Erica, Max, and Lucas are as he tries to make Lucas bring Max back to life from her coma. Max starts to be lifted into the air as Vecna is about to enact his final kill. Eleven is trapped, watching, and it's only Mike's words that allow her to come back to her powers as he tells her he loves her, giving her the strength to fight back against Vecna. The tide turns as Vecna is injured by Eleven in this weird other dimension, while Steve and Robin fire Molotov cocktails at him in the Upside Down. Nancy shoots him through a window. Eleven then goes into Max's mind as she tries desperately to bring her back to life. It seems she's about to be lost forever. And while Vecna appears to die, his plan is still enacted. Max technically dies, his plan to commit four murders succeeding as gates to the Upside Down tear through Hawkins. Eleven puts her hand on Max's heart and tries to bring her back.Two days later, the fallout of Vecna opening the gates is felt throughout the town. People are leaving Hawkins and the local high school is set up as an "earthquake" relief center. Steve, Robin, and Dustin start helping out, and Eddie's uncle comes in. In a heartbreaking scene, Dustin tells him what happened and how Eddie died as a hero. The others head to the hospital to see how Max is doing. We find out she's still in a coma as the doctors don't know if she'll ever wake up. They head to Hopper's old cabin in the woods to try and clean up the place, so that Eleven can live there. Hopper shows up and is reunited with Eleven – she finds out that he's alive after all, bursting into tears.However, as Vecna promised, this is all just the beginning of the end. Hawkins is dying. Upside Down particles sweep across the town, and our heroes look on as the color drains from the ground. As Will suggests, Vecna is nearby – and he won't stop "until he's taken everyone." Does Eddie really die in Stranger Things? (Image credit: Netflix)Sadly, Eddie was the major victim of the finale, his wounds from the Demobats proving too much to survive. He dies in Dustin's arms as Eddie tells him: "I didn't run away this time, right? You're going to have to look after those little sheep for me right." His fate is confirmed in a news report, the reporter suggesting he is missing and presumed dead – his body hasn't been found but that's because dies in the Upside Down, rather than in Hawkins. Eddie was one of the best Stranger Things characters to grace the screen in a long while – you can read our in memoriam for Eddie Munson through that link. Joseph Quinn, who plays Eddie on the show, has opened up a bit about his character's fate – as well as if he could return. Speaking to RadioTimes.com, he said of coming back to the show: "I don't know, I was thinking… me and Joe Keery were discussing ways in which I could [come back]. Maybe I'd be a figment of Gaten's imagination or something like that if there could be some room for something a bit supernatural." Although, the actor did add: "My suspicion is that Eddie has done what he needed to do for the Brothers."Is Max dead or alive?(Image credit: Netflix)Things are still looking very touch and go for Max, who is struggling to recover from Vecna's onslaught against her. She's in hospital in a coma with her legs and arms in a cast, and she's likely not going to be able to see again. Lucas tells his friends that her heart stopped before coming back, but he's not sure if she'll wake up again. Eleven keeps quiet – not telling the team that she was the one who helped revive her. This is the first time we see Eleven's healing powers. It appears she managed to bring Max back from the dead. Are these new powers she's inherited? Or simply an evolution of her powers? Or did she somehow inherit them from Vecna as she attacked him in the other dimension? Unfortunately, the question of whether Max is really dead or alive remains. As Eleven wonders her mind, she sees nothing there at all. Eleven screams her name, but there's no reply. There's only darkness. It's not clear what this means – but we're going to need another miracle for Max to be able to survive.Speaking to Deadline, Max actor Sadie Sink shared some insight into her character's fate. She was quizzed about if the Duffer Brothers told her is Max will die in season 5. "They've been very secretive about season five in general," she replied. "We did have a conversation. They called me before I read the ninth episode because in the script it literally says that Max dies. So they called me beforehand and were like, 'just warning you, this is in there, so you're not like truly shocked.' I have no idea what's coming in five and what that looks like. Max's storyline is very up in the air, 'cause obviously she's in a coma and Eleven can't find her in the void. So who knows where she is and what state she's in."Did Vecna survive the battle for Hawkins? Where is Vecna now?(Image credit: Netflix)Our first clue that Vecna may have survived the battle comes when Nancy, Steve, and Robin go downstairs to where his body should be – but he's not there. Then Will, back in Hawkins, says he can feel his presence, and the hairs on the back of his neck spike. He tells Mike that their battle is far from over: "Now that I'm here in Hawkins, I can feel him and he's hurting but he's still alive. It's strange knowing now who it was this whole time." We don't know where Vecna is hiding but you can almost guarantee that he'll be back – and probably more powerful than ever. For more, check out our deep dive on who dies in Stranger Things season 4, Volume 2. What is happening to Hawkins? What is the snow? (Image credit: Netflix)In the final moments, we see Holly Wheeler look out the window and say it's snowing. Bunt in fact, it's the particles from the Upside Down, showing that the dimension is beginning to bleed into Hawkins. This is all part of Vecna's plan – he wants to see his world combine with ours. "Hawkins will burn and fall, with the rest of this senseless, broken world," he tells Eleven. "I will be there to pick up the pieces when it does and remake it into something beautiful."Nancy has seen what this will look like, Vecna having showed her a vision of his plan. She told the others at the time: "I saw a dark cloud spreading over Hawkins, downtown on fire, dead soldiers, and this giant creature with a gaping mouth. There were so many monsters, an army and they were coming into Hawkins." The first evidence of this the gang looking around and the world draining of color, plants dying all around them, and Hawkins burning in the distance.Where was Vecna back in the early seasons of Stranger Things? (Image credit: Netflix)In the finale, Vecna tells Max that she's much braver than her brother Billy was, confirming that he was linked to the Mind Flayer – it appears Vecna was essentially the captain, and the Mind Flayer was an instrument of destruction. Vecna confirms this when he tells Eleven what happened to him after he was forced into the Upside Down. He was lost, wandering the dimension when he came across the beast, which looked just like the spiders he had befriended as a child. Vecna takes control of the entity, using its power to enact out his vengeful plan. While we didn't meet the series' true antagonist until season 4, he's been calling the shots this whole time. And as Brenner/Papa says, he's been getting stronger. How much do Hopper and Joyce know about what happened with Vecna? (Image credit: Netflix)When Hopper and Joyce were in Russia, all they knew was that their children were in danger, but they didn't know from what. But when they reconcile with Eleven, it seems they've been filled in on what went down. It's possible that Owens' colleague who dropped them off told them what happened, or maybe they don't know everything just yet. In the next season, we could see some more exposition on this, but it's not clear if this will happen off-camera. Is Murray still alive?(Image credit: Netflix)The last we saw of Murray, Enzo, and Uri, they were being whisked off in a helicopter back to the US. While we don't see them again in the final episode, it seems pretty certain that they also made it to the States. What we don't yet know is what the repercussions will be for the Russians – or if we'll see them again in season 5. It's possible that they'll be given immunity for their help saving Joyce and Hopper. Who else died in the battle for Hawkins? (Image credit: Netflix)Aside from Eddie, a news report confirms that 22 people have died, as well as countless others being in hospital and missing. One character we know who is among the dead is Jason, whose body was ripped in half when the gates to the Upside Down opened. However, it's not yet clear if anyone else we know is among the victims yet. What is Will hiding? (Image credit: Netflix)Will is keeping a secret, but he's not ready to share what it is yet. In episode 8, he opens up to Mike about feeling different from other people. He tells his best friend with tears in his eyes: "When you're different, sometimes you feel like a mistake." Jonathan speaks to him later about this in the Surfer Boy Pizza kitchen as he reassures him that he'll love him no matter what. Will clearly doesn't feel ready to share whatever it is he's hiding yet, but it's a beautiful moment between the brothers.Will Nancy and Jonathan stay together? What's next for Steve? (Image credit: Netflix)The Nancy, Jonathan, and Steve love triangle has been around since the first season, but the events of season 4 have made everything more complicated. Steve and Nancy grew closer, with Steve confessing he still had feelings for her. Before Nancy could reply, they were interrupted so we don't yet know if she returns these. Jonathan has also been struggling with how he feels about Nancy, as he told Argyle he's yet to apply to the same college as her as he doesn't know if he wants them to stay together. By the end of the season, they've reconciled but a lot is left unsaid. Just catch Steve's heartbroken look as they hug when Jonathan returns to Hawkins and you'll know there's a lot more to tell about their story. What happened with Sullivan and Dr. Owens? (Image credit: Netflix)The last time we saw these two was back in Nevada when Sullivan ordered the kill shot on Eleven. She survived by taking down the helicopter and managed to escape with the Surfer Boy Pizza gang. There was a big explosion, and Sullivan steps outside of Brenner's labs and see the Pizza truck driving off – unable to catch them as his form of transport has just been blown up. No doubt he will be back in season 5. Dr. Owens' fate is a little more confused, as we don't know whether he survived the attack in the lab, or even if he managed to escape from his handcuffs. We'll have to wait and see, though he is perhaps one of the less key characters in this story.Is there a Stranger Things season 4 post-credits scene?(Image credit: Netflix)There is no Stranger Things season 4, Volume 2 post-credits scene. There was a sort-of post-credits scene mid-way through the season, but there's no tag at the end. Instead, we're left to think about Eleven and the gang looking over a burning Hawkins, with no sign of exactly what happens next. Will there be a Stranger Things season 5? (Image credit: Netflix)We've mentioned it already: Netflix has already confirmed that Stranger Things season 5 is on the way. However, it will be the show's last season, as this story comes to an end. You can read everything we know about Stranger Things season 5 through that link.For what to watch next, check out the best Netflix shows and the best Netflix movies available right now. And for more on Stranger Things, check out our rundown of the biggest Stranger Things season 4, Volume 2 Easter eggs and references Max is one of the most important characters in Stranger Things season 4 because of how a good part of the series focuses on her feelings regarding her brother's death. However, Vecna/Henry/One took advantage of her trauma to open a gate through her by killing her. While Max was able to survive her first encounter thanks to her favorite song, she still ended up volunteering to lure Vecna/Henry/One in volume 2 so that they could kill him. So, is Max dead at the end of Stranger Things season 4? At one point in Stranger Things season 4, Max did indeed die when the doctors announced that she was clinically dead. However, she ended up reviving in what the doctors say was a miracle but was most likely due to Eleven's powers. Still, she was in a state of comatose by the end of the season. Max's death and subsequent survival were one of the most surprising things that happened in Stranger Things season 4 because it showed a new level of what Eleven could do with her powers. However, the problem is that she was still left injured and clinging to life by the end of her encounter with Vecna/Henry/One. And that means that season 5 might answer her ultimate fate. Ever since the beginning of season 4 of Stranger Things, Max has been one of the most interesting characters in terms of her story in the new season because of the fact that it was clear that she was still suffering from the effects of her brother's death in the previous season. The fact that the new enemy, named Vecna/Henry/One, was using the past traumas of young teenagers didn't help her case throughout the season because, at one point, she nearly got killed. It was only through the efforts of her favorite song, "Running Up That Hill" by Kate Bush, that she was able to survive her first encounter with Vecna/Henry/One. Since then, Max relied on Kate Bush to keep her mind in a happy place so that she wouldn't get targeted by the powerful creature again. But the problem was that Max and her friends needed to kill Vecna/Henry/One because he was looking to unleash hell on Earth by opening four gates from the Upside Down. Max's death was supposed to open the fourth gate, but Kate Bush kept Vecna/Henry/One at bay. However, to save Hawkins and the world, they still needed to find a way to kill their enemy. That was when the main characters realized that the only way for them to kill Vecna/Henry/One was to allow him to enter someone's head because they knew from their experiences with Eleven that he needed to leave his physical body to enter someone's mind. That means that they needed someone to keep Vecna/Henry/One preoccupied so that they could kill his main body. Max volunteered to allow the creature to enter her mind so that she could act as a decoy. So, throughout the final episode of season 4, Max played the role of the decoy and was trying her best to keep Vecna/Henry/One at bay so that her friends could get to his body and kill him. But she underestimated their enemy's power as he was still able to find a way to get to Max's deepest traumas despite her best efforts to focus her mind on the best memories she could ever think of. When Vecna/Henry/One was about to get to her, Eleven showed up to keep the creature at bay. This led to a battle between Eleven and One as their psychic abilities proved to be a match. However, Vecna/Henry/One was able to gain the upper hand and pin Eleven down so that she could make her watch Max's death. Vecna/Henry/One was actually in the middle of killing Max, as her limbs in real life were beginning to snap, and her eyes were already bleeding. But when Mike was able to communicate his love for Eleven to give her the strength she needed, she regained her resolve and was able to pin down Vecna/Henry/One before he could completely kill Max. Meanwhile, Steve, Nancy, and Robin took the opportunity to attack his real body in the Upside Down. Vecna/Henry/One was defeated in the meantime but was still alive somewhere. However, Max was already down and dying. Lucas was holding her as she told him that she could no longer feel her body but was not yet ready to die. That was when Lucas told Erica to call an ambulance, but it seemed too late because Max was already dying. As mentioned, Max suffered grave injuries when Vecna/Henry/One was about to kill her but failed to complete the job. Nevertheless, as Lucas was holding her, she knew that she was about to die. But did Max really die? Apparently, yes, Max did indeed die in volume 2 of Stranger Things season 4. In fact, this was proven when the fourth gate opened and cut huge rifts through Hawkins. It appeared that the Upside Down was about to swallow Hawkins until Eleven, through her powers, was trying to do something to Max remotely. Two days later, it was reported that the massive rift that appeared in Hawkins was merely an earthquake as it was clear that the Upside Down never swallowed opened. That means that the fourth gate wasn't completely due to the fact that Max had lived and was in the hospital. Lucas was seen telling Max a story in the hospital while she was lying down on the bed. The rest of the gang showed up and realized that Max was in a state of comatose, which the doctors weren't sure whether or not she could overcome. But the one thing that was sure was that she had died at one point. Lucas said that Max was already dead when the ambulance arrived to try to treat her. However, as the doctors said, she was able to survive through a miracle. This miracle could have been Eleven's intervention as it was clear that she was trying to keep her friend alive. In that regard, Max did indeed die but was revived before she completely died. The fact that she revived was probably the reason why the fourth gate to the Upside Down was never fully opened and why the rifts caused by the four gates stopped before they could swallow the entire town whole. In short, Eleven's intervention was what saved Max and, ultimately, the town of Hawkins.~~ Warning: This article contains spoilers from Stranger Things season 4, Volume 2. All we kept hearing about Volume 2 of Stranger Things season 4 was that it was bigger and more deadly. The Duffer Brothers confirmed in an interview with Variety that there would be a "body count" in the final two episodes, which have a total runtime of nearly 4 hours, while star Joseph Quinn (Eddie) described the finale as "just carnage" to The Guardian. The trailer for the two-part finish also teased lines like "your friends have lost" and "it might not work out for us this time." So, was it as fatal for our heroes as it sounded? Not quite. Only two individuals died in season 4, Volume 2 — unless you count all the unnamed lab workers and soldiers who got shot up in the NINA Project headquarters. So, let's say there were two main characters who didn't make it to the end. Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) and Dr. Martin Brenner (Matthew Modine) are back at it in the 'Stranger Things' season 4 finale episodes. Netflix Brenner (Matthew Modine) actually dies this time. No seemingly getting devoured by a demogorgon off-screen only to come back three seasons later. Although, it seems we might never find out how Papa survived that season 1 attack. After regaining her powers in the NINA tank, Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) is determined to return to Hawkins to save her friends before they get themselves killed by facing Vecna/Henry/One (Jamie Campbell Bower) in the Upside Down. Brenner had other plans. His men beat the heck out of Dr. Sam Owens (Paul Reiser), while Brenner drugs Eleven and puts an electric collar around her neck. He wants to continue their work in the tank so he knows for sure she's strong enough to face Vecna. Even though Eleven gets some good telekinetic punches in, that's not what kills him. Lt. Col. Jack Sullivan (Sherman Augustus), still believing Eleven is causing the horrors in Hawkins, leads his forces on an assault on Brenner's underground desert lab. Brenner tries carrying Eleven to safety and gets shot up a bunch of times by a sniper in a helicopter — before Eleven uses her powers to blow the crap out of that bird. Adding more confirmation that he's truly dead this time, Brenner gives a final exhale as he goes still on the ground. Joseph Quinn as Eddie Munson on 'Stranger Things'. Tina Rowden/Netflix Well, Eddie, it was good knowing you while it lasted. One of the standouts of Stranger Things season 4, Joseph Quinn's Eddie Munson goes out in a blaze of glory. The kids in Hawkins suit up to go back to the Upside Down on an assassination mission. While Max (Sadie Sink) lures Vecna to come try to kill her again through astral projection, Steve (Joe Keery), Nancy (Natalia Dyer), and Robin (Maya Hawke) head for the other dimension's Creel House to attack his defenseless body. Eddie and Dustin (Gaten Matarazzo) remain crucial for this plan to work. They are in charge of distracting the demo-bats long enough for the others to sneak into Vecna's lair undetected. So Eddie finds his guitar, sets up an amp on the roof of his alt-dimension house, and performs Metallica's "Master of Puppets." But that means the demo-bats have now set their sights on Eddie and Dustin. The kids lock themselves inside the house with the creatures threatening to break in. To save Dustin, Eddie throws his buddy back through the portal to the real world before luring the winged minions away on a bike through the Upside Down. Not wanting to be a coward, like when he ran away from Chrissy's mangled body in the season 4 premiere episode, Eddie decides he's going to stand his ground and fight. Unfortunately, he does not survive. Will Max (Sadie Sink) and Lucas (Caleb McLaughlin) reconcile?. Netflix If we're pulling hairs, okay, technically three people died in the finale. But this third one came back to life, so it doesn't really count. Unbeknownst to her, Eleven telepathically piggybacks into Max's mind and waits for Vecna to emerge. She and Vecna both get the upper hand at various points in the fight, but El is unable to stop Vecna from killing Max. He injures her so badly that, while her contorted body in the real world is lying in the arms of Lucas (Caleb McLaughlin) with bloody eyes and broken limbs, Max dies for 10 seconds or so. Eleven's astral self is able to use her powers to bring Max back, but the girl is left in a coma at the end of the finale with no signs of recovery. And because Max did die, that was all Vecna needs. The gang figures out Vecna's master plan: destroy the barrier between their world and the Upside Down. To do that, he needs to kill four individuals, each one leaving behind a new crack to the dimension at their murder site. With Max dead, even for seconds, the barrier drops and the Upside Down crashes into the world of Hawkins. How is anyone going to fix that big problem? That's for the fifth and final season to determine. Looking back, everyone was worried about Steve being the one who might meet his end. The Duffers had even said if Steve does die in Vol. 2, it wouldn't be from the demo-bat bites he withstood. The real surprise, perhaps, is that none of the mainstay players were killed off. Not even Vecna, the big bad, died by the time the credits rolled. Perhaps this is all just setting things up for an even deadlier fifth and final season. Stranger Things season 4 is now streaming in its entirety on Netflix. Sign up for Entertainment Weekly's free daily newsletter to get breaking TV news, exclusive first looks, recaps, reviews, interviews with your favorite stars, and more. Related content: 8 January 2024, 16:02 Stranger Things Cast vs. 'The Most Impossible Stranger Things Quiz' | PopBuzz Meets Does Max die in Stranger Things 4 Volume 2? Is she dead? Here's what happens to everyone's fave Zoomer and how it affects season 5. [Major spoilers ahead!] When they said Stranger Things 4 Volume 2 was going to be "absolute carnage", they really meant it. Death, destruction, cliffhangers, danger... Particularly for everyone in Hawkins, including our beloved Kate Bush stan Max Mayfield.As teased in the trailers, Max plays a pivotal part in Volume 2. She spends the majority of the final two episodes inside the Creel House with Lucas and Erica, as the rest of the Hawkins gang head to the Upside Down to kill Vecna.Given what she went through in Volume 1 when she almost died at the hands of the villain, fans were terrified about what might happen to Max going into the final two episodes. Now we finally have an answer as to what happens to Max in the season 4 finale episode – and it's a huge shocker that has pretty big implications for what's to come in Stranger Things 5. WARNING: This article contains major spoilers for Max's storyline and the finale of Stranger Things 4. Don't read ahead if you have not finished episode 9. Is Max dead in Stranger Things 4? Her Volume 2 ending explained. Picture: Netflix WARNING: Stranger Things 4 spoilers ahead! Picture: Netflix In episode 8, Max hatches a plan with Lucas and the rest of the Hawkins gang to finally kill Vecna once and for all. In order to capture Vecna in his own trance and kill him from within the Upside Down, Max puts herself forward as bait.She goes to the Creel House, along with Lucas and Erica, and waits around for Vecna to take her again. Max provokes Vecna by speaking about her darkest thoughts and feelings. It works, and Max is immediately placed under Vecna's trance again. Max manages to hide from Vecna within her happy memories. She ends up at the Snow Ball where she shared her first kiss with Lucas back in 1984, and manages to stay there until Vecna eventually finds her. At the same time, however, Eleven has found a way to piggyback into Max's mind from within The Void. When Vecna shows up in Max's Snow Ball memory and catches her, El suddenly appears and uses her powers to throw him across the room. Stranger Things 4: Does Max die in Stranger Things 4 Volume 2? Picture: Netflix Max and El's reunion is short-lived, as Vecna strolls back in and overpowers Eleven. He throws Max across the room before dragging Eleven and Max to his Mind Lair. Max ends up being held by the vines in Vecna's lair as Vecna reveals his masterplan to Eleven. Vecna then finally goes over to Max and starts to kill her. Eleven uses Mike's voice and declaration of love to free herself of Vecna's grasps, but she doesn't manage it in time.Max begins to levitate in the real world, with a horrified Lucas looking on as her arms and legs break one by one, and blood begins to stream down from her eyes. El finally breaks free, sending Vecna flying with force. At the same time, Nancy, Steve and Jonathan attack Vecna from within the Upside Down and his grasp on Max falters.Max falls to the ground, alive, but she can't see or feel anything. Stranger Things 4: Does Vecna kill Max? Picture: Netflix Max attempts to hold on, telling Lucas that she's "not ready to die" but she succumbs to her injuries and ends up dying in Lucas's arms. Max's death allows Vecna to open the fourth gate, and rip a huge hole in the middle of Hawkins. However, Eleven is still watching all of this unfold from The Void. Refusing to believe that Max is dead, El places a hand on Max's body and appears to transfer their happiest memories to her. The scene cuts away before we can see what kind of effect El's move made on Max, but all becomes clear(ish) in the 'Two Days' later epilogue. What happens to Max in Stranger Things 4? Picture: Netflix Two days later, it's revealed that Max is still alive, but she's in a coma and it's unclear if she will ever wake up. Lucas tells El, Mike, Will, Nancy and Jonathan that Max was clinically dead "for over a minute," but she then came back. Lucas notes that the doctors don't know how it happened.It's left unexplained, but it seems as though Eleven somehow revived her when she shared/transferred/showed those happy memories to her while in The Void.However, while Max is still physically alive in the real world, Eleven cannot appear to locate her when she tries to find her using The Void. Season 4 ends before we get an explanation as to why that is, but given what we now know about Vecna, and how he consumes the thoughts, memories and feelings of those he kills, could Max's consciousness now be trapped somewhere within him, hidden from Eleven?Despite her season 4 ending, it's now been confirmed that Sadie Sink will return as Max in Stranger Things 5. The Duffer Brothers have also confirmed that Max is "braindead and blind". Initially, Max was meant to actually die in season 4, but the Duffers decided that her being in a coma would be key to what happens in season 5. "I can't really get into the details but it is important that she is [in a coma]," Ross Duffer told Netflix. "And that is going to have a major effect on 5. It's not a 'cheat', it's incredibly relevant to 5."Sadie has previously teased her return, and the good news was finally confirmed when the official Stranger Things 5 cast picture dropped on January 8th. Max is officially back... she's braindead, but she's back! We'll just have to wait and see how it all plays out in season 5. Javon Walton Picks His Own Interview Questions | Umbrella Academy | PopBuzz Meets 8 January 2024, 16:02 Stranger Things Cast vs. 'The Most Impossible Stranger Things Quiz' | PopBuzz Meets Does Max die in Stranger Things 4 Volume 2? Is she dead? Here's what happens to everyone's fave Zoomer and how it affects season 5. [Major spoilers ahead!] When they said Stranger Things 4 Volume 2 was going to be "absolute carnage", they really meant it. Death, destruction, cliffhangers, danger... Particularly for everyone in Hawkins, including our beloved Kate Bush stan Max Mayfield.As teased in the trailers, Max plays a pivotal part in Volume 2. She spends the majority of the final two episodes inside the Creel House with Lucas and Erica, as the rest of the Hawkins gang head to the Upside Down to kill Vecna.Given what she went through in Volume 1 when she almost died at the hands of the villain, fans were terrified about what might happen to Max going into the final two episodes. Now we finally have an answer as to what happens to Max in the season 4 finale episode – and it's a huge shocker that has pretty big implications for what's to come in Stranger Things 5. WARNING: This article contains major spoilers for Max's storyline and the finale of Stranger Things 4. Don't read ahead if you have not finished episode 9. Is Max dead in Stranger Things 4? Her Volume 2 ending explained. Picture: Netflix WARNING: Stranger Things 4 spoilers ahead! Picture: Netflix In episode 8, Max hatches a plan with Lucas and the rest of the Hawkins gang to finally kill Vecna once and for all. In order to capture Vecna in his own trance and kill him from within the Upside Down, Max puts herself forward as bait.She goes to the Creel House, along with Lucas and Erica, and waits around for Vecna to take her again. Max provokes Vecna by speaking about her darkest thoughts and feelings. It works, and Max is immediately placed under Vecna's trance again. Max manages to hide from Vecna within her happy memories. She ends up at the Snow Ball where she shared her first kiss with Lucas back in 1984, and manages to stay there until Vecna eventually finds her. At the same time, however, Eleven has found a way to piggyback into Max's mind from within The Void. When Vecna shows up in Max's Snow Ball memory and catches her, El suddenly appears and uses her powers to throw him across the room. Stranger Things 4: Does Max die in Stranger Things 4 Volume 2? Picture: Netflix Max and El's reunion is short-lived, as Vecna strolls back in and overpowers Eleven. He throws Max across the room before dragging Eleven and Max to his Mind Lair. Max ends up being held by the vines in Vecna's lair as Vecna reveals his masterplan to Eleven. Vecna then finally goes over to Max and starts to kill her. Eleven uses Mike's voice and declaration of love to free herself of Vecna's grasps, but she doesn't manage it in time.Max begins to levitate in the real world, with a horrified Lucas looking on as her arms and legs break one by one, and blood begins to stream down from her eyes. El finally breaks free, sending Vecna flying with force. At the same time, Nancy, Steve and Jonathan attack Vecna from within the Upside Down and his grasp on Max falters.Max falls to the ground, alive, but she can't see or feel anything. Stranger Things 4: Does Vecna kill Max? Picture: Netflix Max attempts to hold on, telling Lucas that she's "not ready to die" but she succumbs to her injuries and ends up dying in Lucas's arms. Max's death allows Vecna to open the fourth gate, and rip a huge hole in the middle of Hawkins. However, Eleven is still watching all of this unfold from The Void. Refusing to believe that Max is dead, El places a hand on Max's body and appears to transfer their happiest memories to her. The scene cuts away before we can see what kind of effect El's move made on Max, but all becomes clear(ish) in the 'Two Days' later epilogue. What happens to Max in Stranger Things 4? Picture: Netflix Two days later, it's revealed that Max is still alive, but she's in a coma and it's unclear if she will ever wake up. Lucas tells El, Mike, Will, Nancy and Jonathan that Max was clinically dead "for over a minute," but she then came back. Lucas notes that the doctors don't know how it happened.It's left unexplained, but it seems as though Eleven somehow revived her when she shared/transferred/showed those happy memories to her while in The Void.However, while Max is still physically alive in the real world, Eleven cannot appear to locate her when she tries to find her using The Void. Season 4 ends before we get an explanation as to why that is, but given what we now know about Vecna, and how he consumes the thoughts, memories and feelings of those he kills, could Max's consciousness now be trapped somewhere within him, hidden from Eleven?Despite her season 4 ending, it's now been confirmed that Sadie Sink will return as Max in Stranger Things 5. The Duffer Brothers have also confirmed that Max is "braindead and blind". Initially, Max was meant to actually die in season 4, but the Duffers decided that her being in a coma would be key to what happens in season 5. "I can't really get into the details but it is important that she is [in a coma]," Ross Duffer told Netflix. "And that is going to have a major effect on 5. It's not a 'cheat', it's incredibly relevant to 5."Sadie has previously teased her return, and the good news was finally confirmed when the official Stranger Things 5 cast picture dropped on January 8th. Max is officially back... she's braindead, but she's back! We'll just have to wait and see how it all plays out in season 5. Javon Walton Picks His Own Interview Questions | Umbrella Academy | PopBuzz Meets Spoilers for Stranger Things season 4, volume 2 below. At the end of the Stranger Things season 4 finale, it's frustratingly unclear just how dead Max actually is. Or isn't. The last we see of her, she's in the hospital, severely maimed and comatose after her final encounter with Vecna. No one knows when she'll come back, if at all. Max has had a tough go of it lately. Wavering between guilt, grief and relief over her stepbrother Billy's death, in season 4 she becomes a prime target for Vecna, the big bad from the Upside Down who preys on kids haunted by past traumas, infiltrating their minds via their distressing thoughts before killing them in gruesome fashion. Feeling fragile and standoffish (it also didn't help that she and Lucas broke up or that her best friend, Eleven, moved across the country), Max was marked by Vecna early on. But with the help of the Kate Bush song now stuck in your head for, shall we say, forever—"Running Up That Hill (Deal with God)"—she managed to exercise the villain from her head. But that Kate Bush cassette could only loop for so long. In the season's final two episodes, Max and her buddies in Hawkins devise a plan: In a ploy to kill Vecna, she'll ditch the headphones and invite him into her mind, luring him in with her darkest thoughts. (That way, her friends could kill Vecna in the Upside Down while he was distracted.) Lucas isn't a big fan of this plan—Vecna isn't known for displays of mercy—but, collectively, they decide it's the best move. While within Vecna's clutches, Max gets a surprise assist from Eleven, who enters Max's mind using her psychic powers in a makeshift sensory deprivation tank. Though El is all the way in Nevada, she's able to face Vecna in one of Max's memories, all in hopes of saving both her friend and the world. But even the Hawkins crew's four-phase plan of attack and Eleven's revived telekinetic blasts are not enough. Vecna holds off Eleven long enough to brutally attack Max in his signature style—she levitates, her eyes go white and bleed, and he snaps her limbs. Eleven regains her strength and pushes Vecna off before he can complete the job, but the damage is already done. In the real world, Max collapses in Lucas's arms (poor baby was watching this the whole time