

04 What Do We Know About the Plot of Season 5?



Toward the end of *Stranger Things* season four, the Hawkins crew reunites and seemingly overpowers Vecna from separate corners and dimensions of the world. They outsmart and flambé him, thinking they've won — but he survives and retreats. In the final moments of the penultimate season's finale, it is revealed that Vecna's curse succeeded, despite Max still technically being alive. Hawkins splits into four pieces and the group looks down at their home as the villain's final chapter begins.

Secondly, season five is going to have a time jump, considering the actors who play the kids are all approaching (or already in) their 20s, despite technically still being in high school in the *Stranger Things* world. "I'm sure **we will do a time jump**," Ross told *TVLine* in June 2022. "Ideally, we'd have shot [seasons four and five] back to back, but there was just no feasible way to do that. So these are all discussions we're going to have with our writers when we start the room up." Netflix confirmed that the show would jump a little over a year to the fall of 1987, after season four took place in March 1986.

Third, Vecna is back — though fans don't know in what capacity the show's Big Bad will return. When *THR* asked Jamie Campbell Bower how Vecna will factor into the show's endgame following the villain's journey throughout the fourth season, he basically admitted **he'd be back**. And as for whether or not the Hawkins kids can beat him, well, it's a possibility. "There's always an opportunity for the good guys to win," he said. "I think in this case, they'd have to be way smarter than they have been thus far because Henry is not one to forget and not one to let things slide."

Matarazzo agreed with Wolfgard that this season will be bigger, as many of the show's cast and crew have teased thus far. The actor behind the show's beloved Dustin noted that making season five the "biggest, darkest, scariest" one yet is "the goal."