# Netflix removes Black Mirror: Bandersnatch and Kimmy Schmidt interactive specials amid pivot to mobile gaming



Netflix's recent decision to remove interactive specials, specifically the acclaimed *Black Mirror: Bandersnatch* and *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Kimmy vs. the Reverend*, has ignited a wave of concern among viewers. This move, scheduled for May 12, 2025, is viewed by many as a stark signal of Netflix's shifting focus from interactive storytelling towards prioritising mobile gaming. This transition raises profound questions about the future of content preservation and viewer engagement on the platform.

*Black Mirror: Bandersnatch*, which debuted in 2018, was a trailblazer in interactive cinema, allowing audiences to make choices that altered the storyline, leading to multiple endings. As users navigated the psychological landscape of a young programmer adapting a fantasy gamebook into a video game, the experience evolved uniquely for every viewer; some finished the episode in as little as 40 minutes, while others took over two hours. The episode not only showcased *Black Mirror*’s trademark themes of technology and consequence but also garnered an Emmy Award for Outstanding Television Movie due to its profound innovation in narrative form.

Similarly, *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Kimmy vs. the Reverend* functioned as a unique conclusion to the beloved comedy series, allowing viewers to dictate the storyline's direction in a manner reminiscent of classic choose-your-own-adventure narratives. With the interactivity removed, fans worry that they will lose a core aspect of both specials that deeply influenced their viewing experience.

The rationale given for this decision aligns with Netflix's broader strategy to adapt to an increasingly competitive market, particularly as it pivots towards mobile gaming. Reports indicate that upcoming software updates will render the interactive elements of these specials unplayable, effectively ensuring they cannot be shown in their original form anywhere else. This shift has left many viewers lamenting the loss of content that is not easily available on physical media, thereby complicating preservation efforts for such innovative works.

Critics of the move express concerns about the implications for content variety on the platform. One Reddit user succinctly noted, "From a preservation standpoint, this sucks," highlighting the unique challenges posed by interactive media that cannot easily be replicated in a conventional viewing experience. The absence of these shows raises fears about a future where interactive narratives become increasingly rare, overshadowed by more traditional programming formats.

The removal of these episodes coincides with the launch of *Black Mirror*'s seventh season, which contains references to *Bandersnatch*. There is speculation about a potential sequel titled *Banderstruck*, though it appears any continuation of the story will not retain the interactive format that defined its predecessor.

As *Netflix* continues to evolve, many viewers find themselves questioning whether the decisions they make as a company align with the expectations of their audience. While the transition toward mobile gaming may seem strategic, its long-term effects on the diversity and richness of content available to subscribers could be substantial. As the dust settles on this latest development, it is clear that the landscape of streaming entertainment remains as uncertain as the choices that once defined these innovative interactive narratives.

Netflix’s actions reflect a larger trend within the streaming industry, where the pressures of innovation, competition, and audience engagement continually shape the content we consume. For consumers and creators alike, the challenge will be adapting to this ongoing evolution while advocating for the preservation of unique storytelling forms that, like those offered by *Bandersnatch* and *Kimmy vs. the Reverend*, redefine the boundaries of what television can be.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: (1), (2)
2. Paragraph 2: (1), (6)
3. Paragraph 3: (1), (2), (7)
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7. Paragraph 7: (2), (6)
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/netflix-black-mirror-bandersnatch-episode-removed-b2750574.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/sci-fi-shows/netflix-is-removing-its-interactive-specials-very-soon-including-black-mirrors-bandersnatch/> - Netflix is removing its interactive specials, including 'Black Mirror: Bandersnatch' and 'Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Kimmy vs. The Reverend', on May 12, 2025. This decision aligns with Netflix's shift towards mobile gaming and away from interactive content. The removal coincides with the release of 'Black Mirror' Season 7, which features a callback to 'Bandersnatch'. Series creator Charlie Brooker hinted at a potential sequel titled 'Banderstruck', set in a different era, though it would not be interactive. The move reflects Netflix's evolving content strategy.
3. <https://www.theverge.com/2018/12/28/18159096/black-mirror-bandersnatch-apple-tv-chromecast-netflix-devices-support> - 'Black Mirror: Bandersnatch' is Netflix's interactive, choose-your-own-adventure-style movie that ties into the 'Black Mirror' universe. However, it won’t play on every Netflix-enabled device. Bandersnatch was written using Twine, an open-source platform that requires devices with a level of technological sophistication to deliver a proper interactive experience. An email from Netflix confirms that Bandersnatch isn’t supported on Chromecast, Apple TV, and some legacy devices. Those who try to access Bandersnatch on devices that don’t support the technology will be met with a message from Netflix to help them find a device that supports the Black Mirror special.
4. <https://www.groovypost.com/news/netflix-black-mirror-bandersnatch-unavailable-apple-tv-chromecast/> - 'Black Mirror: Bandersnatch' is an interactive special on Netflix that allows viewers to make decisions for the characters throughout the story. Unfortunately, it is not compatible with all devices that offer the Netflix app. Most notably, Apple TV and Google Chromecast are unsupported. When attempting to watch Bandersnatch on these devices, users are greeted with a message from Netflix indicating that the interactive show is only compatible with newer smart TVs, most streaming media players, game consoles, and web browsers, and iOS and Android devices running the latest version of the Netflix app.
5. <https://www.whats-on-netflix.com/news/cant-watch-black-mirror-bandersnatch-on-netflix-heres-why/> - According to Netflix, 'Black Mirror: Bandersnatch' is not supported on certain devices, including Chromecasts, Windows App, and browsers using Silverlight (e.g., Edge & Firefox). Google Chrome does support it but requires the browser to be up-to-date. Reports also indicate that older Roku boxes may not support the new episodes. If your device is one of the unsupported ones, you'll need to find another device to watch. For those watching on televisions, PlayStation or Xbox consoles, updates are available in the store. Android and iOS users can update their apps through their respective app stores.
6. <https://www.netflix.com/title/80988062/> - 'Black Mirror: Bandersnatch' is an interactive special on Netflix that allows viewers to make decisions for the characters throughout the story. The film is set in 1984 and follows a young programmer who begins to question reality as he adapts a dark fantasy novel into a video game. The interactive nature of the film allows for multiple endings, providing a unique viewing experience. The film has been praised for its innovative storytelling and was awarded the 2019 Emmy Award for Outstanding Television Movie.
7. <https://www.whats-on-netflix.com/news/why-isnt-unbreakable-kimmy-schmidt-interactive-special-on-netflix/> - 'Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Kimmy vs. the Reverend' is an interactive special for the series 'Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt' that was added to Netflix on May 12, 2020. However, it is not available in all regions. The special is currently available in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The reason for the limited availability is due to delays in dubbing for other regions. Netflix has indicated that the special will be available in other regions in the coming weeks.