

Appearing on ESPN's First Take, Luke Cage actor Mike Colter was asked to explain the show's decision to kill off Mahershala Ali's Cornell "Cottonmouth" Stokes roughly halfway through the series. Aside from the fact that Ali is probably the most sought-after African-American male lead in Hollywood right now, the two primary threats that arose in Cottonmouth's wake - Erik LaRay Harvey's Diamondback and Alfre Woodard's Black Mariah just didn't have the same compelling backstory and charisma, leading a lot of viewers to complain that the show lost focus in the back-half just to service a big, knockdown, drag-out fight in the finale. "The decision to do that was done way before we started production. It's a lot of people that's involved in this. When you do it on paper, here's what it is. It's like running a play in football. You do it in practice. It works. Looks good. In the game, it doesn't work, and all of the sudden in retrospect,

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