

EPISODE by episode

#1 show of the 2025 summer

Family bonding doesn't just come from the dinner table—sometimes, it happens one episode at a time. For this trio of siblings, family bonding came from watching the summer hot hit *Love Island*.

Each day, it would begin the same way: the three of them would nestle together on a small bed, one with the remote, one with the snacks, and one with the blanket. The TV would flicker with questionable dialogue and sunburnt contestants, and the three would turn to each other to scream and argue. But somewhere between the laughter, drama, and bickering, the Thome siblings found a subtle closeness while watching 2025's hottest TV hit—*Love Island*.

It all started with summer boredom. *Love Island*, known for its buzzing drama, became one the biggest reality shows of all time. Islanders live in an isolated villa in search for love, and the show combines romance, strategy, and betrayal. The show's immense promotion across social media and streaming apps alike made it catch the eye of **freshman Elena Thome**.

"I saw my little sister Elena watching it and I would make fun of her, and she told me not to hate it till I tried it. So then I watched one episode with her, and I got hooked," **junior Caleb Thome** said.

With Elena and Caleb Thome invested, it was only a matter of time before **junior Lydia Thome** followed suit.

Every day after their cross-country practice, the trio would rush home, jumping onto their older sister's bed and turning on the TV. And of course, every great show binge came with a handy plate of snacks.

"We had a lot of avocado toast and a ton of water. We would even get Taco Bell sometimes," Lydia said.

However, the show's dramatic plots and feuds made for a far tastier treat than the food they shared.

"There's so many good parts, but Aaron and Kaylor beefing, 'naustay' from Kendall, Rob in the pool, and Serena's crashout are my favorites," Lydia said.

Love Island's unpredictable plots, compelling games, and romantic drama set the series apart from other reality TV shows, keeping audiences hooked through each episode.

"We don't watch any other reality TV. We kinda think reality TV is a waste of time, which is weird because we love *Love Island*," Caleb said.

Love Island's influence has enveloped the nation, leaving millions hooked on the show's dramatic plotlines. However, for this family, the show was more than just shocking plot twists.

While each episode seemed to unveil a new betrayal and moment of despair, the real treasure was the moments they shared in their older sister's room. From collective gasps to banishing each other from the bedroom, the Thome siblings found themselves growing closer from the show's wild scenes.

"We would talk about it so much together every day, and I'd say we've gotten much closer since we started watching *Love Island*," Elena said.

Between the side chatter, heated debates, and innocent teasing, the Thome siblings found *Love Island* to be more than just TV—it was a reason to yell, argue, and cheer with one other.

It didn't matter what happened on the screen, as the best parts were the inside jokes and quiet comfort of being together, turning every day into a family-bonding tradition they couldn't miss. *story by Lucas Day*

► Play

More info

popcorn PICKS

Movies can connect a variety of people in various ways such as the message, the theme, the actors and actresses, and the time in our lives we first experienced our favorite movie. The genre is arguably the most telling of all aspects, here's a breakdown of the most favored.

horror 30%

comedy 40%

romance 30%

OUT OF 100 STUDENTS



"Scream 1996 is my favorite horror movie not necessarily because it's the scariest—I've seen scarier—but because it's entertaining. It just brings new things to the table that other horror movies just fail to do, and I normally watch it with my step-dad or my friends."

Aria Ashton ('26)



"My favorite romance movie is *All the Bright Places*. I feel like it shows the side of relationships that a lot of people don't see. I feel like it gets under an emotion layer that a lot of people would personally connect with."

Brayden Higgins ('27)