

TV TV News BBC

Plight of children coping with parents in prison is hard to watch but compelling viewing

Prison, My Parents and Me told the stories of 100,000 kids who wake up each morning knowing their mum or dad won't be making their breakfast for them

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COMMENTS



BY IAN HYLAND

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TV OPINION



Ruby reads out loud a letter written to her by her father from prison (Photo: BBC)



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If you're one of those **BBC** viewers who watches to the end of News At Ten and then

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flicks around the other channels for a fly-on-the-wall police show or an old episode of One Foot In The Grave, you could be missing out.

BBC1 has some good stuff in the late slot, especially on Tuesday nights.

It was the disturbing yet uplifting documentary **Prison**, My Parents and Me which told the stories of some of the 100,000 British kids who wake up each morning knowing their mum or dad – and sometimes both – won't be making their breakfast for them.

As a companion film to this Friday's annual **Children In Need** bucket-rattler, the one thing it proved these children are not in need of is natural resilience.

Kids like Ruby, aged seven, who maintained her optimistic approach even after discovering her dad had finally been sentenced – to eight years.



Children in Need helps children affected by this issue

Or Clayton, aged 15, whose initial response to his parents being sent down was to go off the rails himself.

Then he picked himself up and got back on track by joining the police cadets.

They still need extra help though, as do the few small charities which, some might argue, are doing the Government's work for it by offering support.

It's a thorny issue. In these peculiarly unfriendly times I'm sure there will be some who think "if you can't do the time, don't do the crime" should extend to a convict's family.

Obviously, I would never deny those people their right to hold that opinion.

I might suggest they check this film out on iPlayer though.

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I'M A CELEBRITY GET ME OUT OF HERE I'm A Celebrity late arrivals REVEALED: Danny Baker and Martin Roberts heading into camp on Thursday night



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