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# I pushed my friend off a bridge... she begged me to

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A WOMAN pushed her depressed friend off a railway bridge, then told shocked witnesses: 'She wanted me to.'

Kate Wiggett suffered serious injuries after Victoria Dickinson shoved her 25ft on to the tracks.

Her life was saved when passers-by dragged her from the tracks as a train approached.

Yesterday mother-of-six Dickinson, 28, was jailed for attempted murder.

She claimed Miss Wiggett, also 28, had repeatedly begged her for help in committing suicide.

But jailing Dickinson for three years and four months, the judge told her she could have refused and insisted that her friend see a doctor.

Witnesses told how she pushed Miss Wiggett as the pair sat on the bridge near Malvern Link station in Worcestershire and counted to three together. When confronted, Dickin-



Jailed: Victoria Dickinson

## 'You could have refused'

son replied 'She wanted that', Nottingham Crown Court heard. She fled and was arrested at her home in Malvern Link.

Miss Wiggett suffered a fractured skull and multiple fractures of the spine and pelvis. She was in a coma for a month but has almost fully recovered. However she has no memory of the incident, and 'struggled to comprehend' how her friend could have pushed her, the court heard.

The 'troubling, sad and bizarre' incident occurred after the pair had been drinking together last November, said Jonas Hankin QC, prosecuting. In the weeks before, Miss Wiggett had suffered domestic problems. She had been asked to leave the family home because of heavy drinking and often spoke of ending her life.

A week before her fall, she had taken an overdose of anti-depressants and told friends she wanted to kill herself by 'jumping from a bridge',

but was 'too scared to do it'. Mr Hankin said that Dickinson, then seven months pregnant, told police she was 'adamant' that she did not want to push her friend off the bridge, but Miss Wiggett had 'kept on and on about it'.

She denied knowing a train was approaching.

Mr Hankin said Dickinson had been 'too ready to take part in the victim's death. She made no offer to dissuade or help the victim, or to get her help'.

Dickinson was initially charged under the Suicide Act with helping someone take their own life, but later pleaded guilty to attempted murder.

Judge Mr Justice Flaux said he accepted Miss Wiggett had repeatedly asked Dickinson to help her kill herself, and had asked her to push her from the bridge. However, he told her: 'You could have refused. You made no effort to seek assistance.'

It was a 'spontaneous attempt to kill, rather than one that was planned', he added.

Nicholas Roberts, defending, said Dickinson accepted that she should not have pushed Miss Wiggett.

After an earlier hearing, sector crown prosecutor David Elliott said Dickinson's actions were 'callous and deliberate - she was fully aware that the victim was vulnerable and upset... but instead of seeking out care and assistance for her, she tried to assist in killing her.'