

## SOLUTION

# BUDDY SYSTEM

Each of the Aberzombie & Fitch clues can be paired to form common English idioms after one letter of each Aberzombie answer is replaced by a bigram. In order of the Aberzombie clues:

BRIDE & GRO(W → OM)

D(U → EA)D & BURIED

FR(E → UI)TS & VEGETABLES

CRI(B → ME) & PUNISHMENT

FAST & LOO(N → SE)

S(A → MO)KE & MIRRORS

TAR & (L → FE)ATHER

STA(G → RS) & STRIPES

TOIL & (D → TR)OUBLE

BONNIE & C(O → LY)DE

(P → WH)EEL & DEAL

CLEAN & JE(T → RK)

SAVINGS & LO(X → AN)

Filling in the enumerations with the respective letters of each changed bigram (as specified by the original Aberzombie letter) spells the phrases IMMATURE FLOWERS and HONEY MAKERS.

Repeating the process one more time on these phrases for Aberzombie & Fitch yields a final English idiom:

B(U → IR)DS & BEES

The provided answer enumeration then identifies the required answer as **BIRDS**.