

THE HIDDEN CIRCLE GAZETTE

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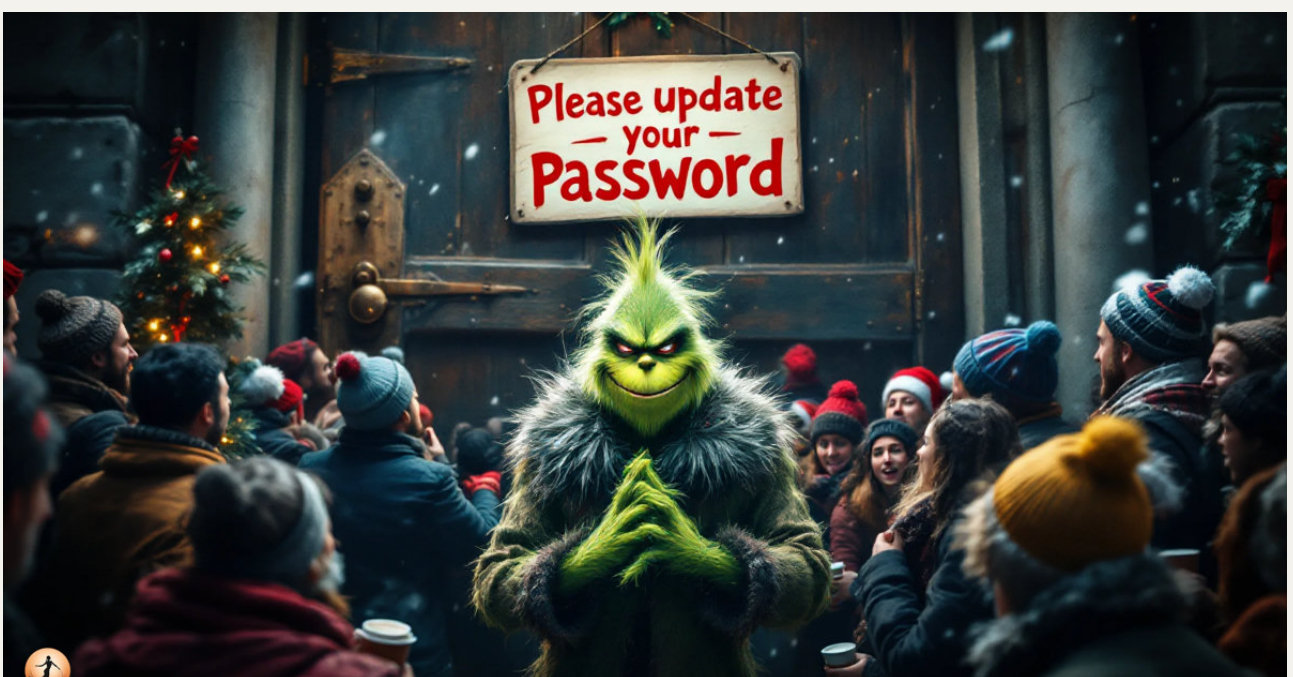
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BLOG

The Nightmare Before Christmas

BY CURT WOODMAN — 2024-12-13





For a long time it was believed the *Christmas Grinch* was just a fairy tale, a figment of an overactive imagination. Alas dear readers, the *Grinch* is very real! But do not go looking for this mythical miscreant in the dark places of some forgotten forrest. No, the Grinch has evolved with time. Where then would this penultimate misanthrope be found in our modern times?

A clue was found in 3DX Chat **Patch 456**. Indeed this may well be described as *the patch from hell*, leaving scores of innocents stranded at the gates of their favourite virtual dwelling. From the cold and snowy North to the sunbaked South, cries of help could be heard directed at the ever elusive customer support, spouting back canned answers that only fuelled the despair.

A forced password change put everyone at the mercy of their email systems. Some eating the required response as nefarious spam. Some long forgotten accounts locked out and unusable leaving their owners in limbo. And some just not working for reasons only a Grinch could ever understand.

For those fortunate few that managed to navigate the password maze, more nasty surprises were waiting inside. Many hearts lept with joy these past weeks when it was discovered one could create text in all sorts of colours, if one knew the magical incantation to type. Alas, these little joys fell victim to the zeal of the Grinch. No more colour in our textual lives.

Fortunately not everything in life is vulnerable to the mischief of the Grinch. But we will let our resident archeologist and all round celebrity correspondent *AnniM* expound on this:

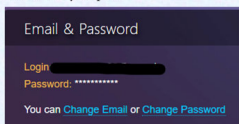
The Wedding Gazette

Eska and Curt: Superheroes in Love

by AnniM

Photos: Angel Rose, Paulinus, Gary

Yesterday, Eska and Curt tied the knot in what can only be described as the most delightfully chaotic wedding of the year. The day began with a nasty surprise:



a mischievous password change locked the bride and half the guests out of the venue. The drama could start. Determined not to let technology ruin her big day, Eska took matters into her own hands and - brace yourselves - changed her name before the ceremony, overcoming the digital dilemma. Who says traditions can't be flexible?



The wedding took place in a lovely winter wonderland, with the vows exchanged on the slippery ice of a skating arena. Despite the icy terrain, Eska dazzled in a simple yet daring gown, while Curt looked dashing in an elegant suit that could not hide his superhero nature.

The Wedding Gazette

Over 70 of the couple's closest friends and family braved the cold to witness the union. Among them was their dear friend Jan Lou, who officiated the ceremony with a heartfelt speech about the enduring power of love, set to a soundtrack that tugged at every heartstring. In a moment straight out of a comic book, Eska transformed into Lois Lane, unveiling her "superpower of love," unlocked by Curt, her steadfast Superman.



The highlight of the day? Curt's heartwarming marriage proposal on his knees, leaving everyone breathless. Eska's jubilant "Yes" earned huge applause and resulted in a passionate kiss that filled everyone present with benevolent anticipation of the wedding night. The newly married couple glided into their first dance - the traditional waltz - followed by a lively party.

True love conquers all—even password disasters.

