Mrs. Pearl's scream filled the bedroom. The thief had just taken her emerald ring. In a flash, the mysterious figure vanished. Mrs. Pearl's maids came rushing into the room. They turned on the lights and found the young lady adorned in expensive jewellery lying very still on her ornate bed. She had fainted! They screamed so loudly for help that the cook heard them all the way from the kitchen. She ran in frantically, and upon hearing the maids' story, scrambled to the phone and dialled the I.O.C (Investigators Of Crime). Panicked, the cook spoke quickly into the phone. As they waited, the maids tried desperately to wake up Mrs. Pearl.

Let's pause for a moment, I guess you want to know about the I.O.C. The I.O.C is an organization that investigates crime. Everybody "wears" the name I.O.C (like I.O.C Coby). The I.O.C is made up of about twenty detectives (not including me), and ten researchers that help out when a murder or something serious happens and no suspects have been identified. Together, this group of people make up the I.O.C. I
barely know the other detectives, but my dad's usual partner is I.O.C Mark. I don't know much about the other stuff, as my dad only just joined the I.O.C recently. I suppose I should tell you how I'm connected to the I.O.C.

As a daughter of an I.O.C, it's my job to take care of my little brother, Jamie Juman, while my dad is on the job. My name is Jade Juman, but I prefer Miss Clues. My hair is a brunette color, and you will always find me wearing a bright red headband. I love my dad, but to be honest he isn't the brightest I.O.C agent. I'm the real sleuth, that's why I tag along. Jamie has an adorable toddler type personality that drives women crazy. Under those chubby cheeks and sweet smiles is my partner, JJ. His fuzzy dark hair is so attractive that everyone loves to touch it. He can make anyone talk, so I consider him a real asset in my crime solving career. Now, let's get down to business.

The I.O.C entered Mrs. Pearl's bedroom. "My emerald ring! It's gone!" wailed Mrs. Pearl after she regained consciousness. "I've been robbed! That ring was priceless!"

I.O.C Coby (AKA Dad) tried to appease Mrs. Pearl, "Have no fear Ma'am, the I.O.C will find the thief."

Jamie sucked his finger and then gestured to the ceiling.

"Jamie, you're brilliant!" I whispered in an excited but hushed voice.

It was my first clue! I know it wasn't much, just an outline of a square on the roof, and I don't know if I'm on the right track, but I'll have to keep it in mind.
I went outside the room and accidentally bumped into the butler.

"Watch it little girl!" he said rudely.

"Um... I just need to ask you some questions." I tried to be as polite as I could be.

"I didn't steal the ring!" he snorted and quickly walked away. He seemed sweaty and nervous for a butler. Strange, maybe another clue.

"I saw Maid Ali cleaning over there!" called the butler from a distance.

I walked over to the kitchen to interview Maid Ali. She was so kind to Jamie and answered all my questions with confidence. As Jamie got some tea cups from a cupboard, she fawned over him. While I pondered over the possible "clues" and suspects, I didn't realize Jamie had wandered off. When I looked around and noticed him missing, I raced back to Mrs. Pearl's bedroom to look for him.

"Num, num, num!" Jamie was slurping up spilt tea off the floor.

The I.O.C crowded around the tea spill like Canadians lining up at Tim Hortons. It seemed kind of odd and funny to see adult men clambering over each other to look at a clue. I.O.C Mark was trapped between two bigger men while I.O.C Coby bumped clumsily into everyone. I decided to join in, and reasoned to myself, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!" As the I.O.C studied the tea spill, I swung Jamie on my back and dashed back to the kitchen. I found the cook stirring a pot full of stew.

Not wanting to jump to conclusions, I simply asked, "Where were you when Mrs. Pearl's priceless ring was stolen?"
"The poor woman needs a good meal. I'm making a healthy stew for her." the cook respectfully answered. "I was in here prepping meals for the day. Oh, and I called the I.O.C!"

At this point I realized the clues didn't really connect to anyone. Suddenly, I noticed the butler wandering sneaking mysteriously around the mansion.

"Thieve... " muttered Jamie. He meant sleeve, for his sleeve was wet with tea, but it also sounded like "thief".

I glanced back at the butler. The tea cup on his tray had a crack. The tea spill on the floor! I checked the outline of the square in Mrs. Pearl's bedroom and saw that the tile was starting to fall out of place. All of the sudden, everything was starting to fall into place!

"Jamie, you're brilliant!" I exclaimed, "I know who the thief is!"

The I.O.C peered up from the tea spill and quickly gathered around me as I stood on an antique chest in the bedroom. If the situation wasn't so grim, it would be almost funny to watch this strange group of people huddled together. "Check the ceiling tile that's falling out of place."

Without hesitation, I.O.C Coby and I.O.C Mark lowered the tile to the ground. The emerald ring was perched on top. Mrs. Pearl squealed with delight.

"It was... " I announced slowly to allow time for the suspense to build, "the BUTLER!"

"Me?" the butler pretended to be surprised.
"How do you know?" asked I.O.C Andy.

"Easy," I replied," I believe that the butler turned off the lights so no one could see him grab the ring. He then put the ring on the ceiling tile so nobody could find it. While in the process, he probably tripped and cracked a tea cup which caused the spill. I guess he underestimated the weight of the ring, because the heavy emerald caused the ceiling tile to fall out of place. All the people around made him nervous and sweaty. That emerald ring is priceless, and now the case is solved!"

I.O.C Andy and some other agent handcuffed the butler. He looked silly struggling to break free.

"I could have made a lot of money if that pesky girl didn't stop me!" the butler's voice echoed down the hallway as a few I.O.C agents dragged him to the police car.

"The name's Miss Clues!" I cupped my hands around my mouth.

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"The I.O.C solves a crime once again!" announced I.O.C Coby.

After all the cheering, Mrs. Pearl announced, "Well, JJ and Miss Clues, I would like to reward you." Her emerald ring was glistening on her finger once again.

Mrs. Pearl opened her jewellery box, and a wooden bead necklace dangled from her fingers as she walked towards Jamie.

"This is for Jamie Juman for his brilliant mind!"

"Thank you!" Jamie answered as the I.O.C applauded. I thought I saw him blush.
"And to our sleuth, Jade... uh... Miss Clues!" Mrs. Pearl presented a glimmering sapphire ring to me. It was exquisite!

After what felt like an hour of packing up gadgets, giving statements, and getting everything back into cars, Jamie, my dad, and I drove home.

"You know Jade," Dad said, "I love it when the I.O.C figures things out."

"Yeah!" squealed Jamie, "More teeeeeeeeeel"

We all laughed cheerfully.