



Joplin is tucked into the southwest corner of Missouri, where Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri meet. (Below) A charming street in downtown Joplin.

leftover vanilla icing into the yard. They had devoured the delicious frosting with strawberries plucked from the family's garden.

It was a quiet morning in Joplin, a peaceful city of fifty thousand tucked into a corner of southwestern Missouri. The city had sprung up 150 years before, and back then was mainly known for its dangerous coal mines and wild street fights.

But Joplin's rough days were long gone. Over the decades, Joplin had grown into a proud city of pretty parks, good schools, and quiet neighborhoods. The Satterlee boys felt lucky to be growing up here, not far from the house where their dad had lived as a kid.

Laughing and relaxing in their yard on that Sunday morning, the last thing Bennett and Erhan could imagine was that their city was about to be struck by one of the deadliest tornadoes in US history.

