## SCENE: FLAMINGOS IN A FIX

## Characters: Flora, Flavio, Flynn, Flo, Uncle Willy

A family of Lesser Flamingos is flying to their breeding ground at Lake Natron in Tanzania.

**Flynn**: Hey Dad! Are we there yet? My wings are tired from all this flapping.

**Flo**: And I'm hungry. As in, I could eat an entire lake of blue-green algae all by myself.

Flynn: Yeah, right.

Flo: I could!

Flynn: Yeah, right.

Flo: I could!

**Flavio**: Kids, just settle down! We'll be at Lake

Natron before you know it.

**Flo**: Why can't we just stop now? (points) Look, there's a really cool lake right there we could call

home!

**Flynn**: Yeah! She's right. If we start heading down now, we could make a real impact with an awesome splash landing!

**Flora**: Flynn and Flo aren't serious, are they, Flavio? Could our very own offspring not understand what fantastically fussy creatures we flamingos are?

Flavio: I-

**Flora**: Have we failed in our fundamental job of teaching them how to avoid the threat of extinction?! Have we not instilled in them the importance of preservation—

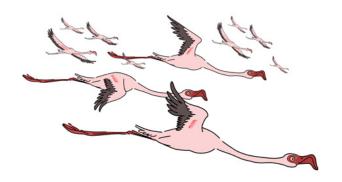
**Flavio**: Hold on! Hold on! Kids, you're worrying your mother and me.

**Flynn and Flo**: *(grumbling)* For something new and different.

Flavio: So, Flynn and Flo, why do you think we're

moving to Lake Natron?

Flynn: Because we can?



**Flo**: Because you and Mom like it there. It's where you met. And where we were born.

**Flavio**: Well, all of those things are true. But there's so much more to the story.

**Flora**: We couldn't just plunk down in any old habitat and be happy and healthy.

**Flavio**: The conditions at Lake Natron are optimal for birds like us to breed.

**Flora**: (with a dramatic sigh) Lovely freshwater springs that flow into the salt lake so we can drink and wash up!

Flavio: Perfect mud for making perfect nests!

**Flora**: Private nesting sites that every new flamingo mama needs! Imagine trying to relax when there are intruders nearby!

**Flavio**: Honey, I think the kids are old enough now to hear about what happened at Lake Magadi.

**Flora**: Oh dear! Such a sad story. But I think you're right. I'll call my brother. (yells) William! William T. Flamingo! Come flap with us.

**Uncle Willy**: At your service, Sis. What's going on? Hi, Flavio! Hi, kids!

**Flora**: Flavio and I think it's time for your niece and nephew to hear about what happened in 1962.

**Uncle Willy**: Oh, dark days. Terrible times. You really think you kids are up for this story?

Flynn: We're not babies!



**Flo**: Yeah, we've been nailing our splash landings for, like, ever!

**Uncle Willy**: Okay. Well, it was a long time ago, 1962 to be exact. There were rains, huge rains, and our traditional nesting sites on Lake Natron flooded. Your aunt and I had no choice—

Flynn: Aunt Winifred?

Flo: Don't interrupt!

**Uncle Willy**: Yes, your Aunt Winifred. She and I moved to Lake Magadi and built a lovely nest in the nesting site and your aunt laid a precious egg. Before long, our baby hatched—

Flynn: Was that our—?

Flo: Shhh...

**Uncle Willy**: But then more rains came and the nesting grounds flooded with very salty water. There was a soda ash factory nearby and it limited the flow of fresh water into the lake. So our beautiful boy— (overcome with emotion)

**Flavio**: Thick bracelets of salt formed around his ankles. The same thing happened to many, many chicks.

Flynn: But how could they—?

Flo: Shhh...

Uncle Willy: One day, Aunt Winifred and I came back from feeding and he was gone.

Flo: Gone?

Flora: Drowned.

**Flavio**: That was a time of great sorrow for us and many other flamingo families. It's a source of deep sadness to this day.

**Flynn**: (sadly) He was our cousin. Our cousin we never met.

Uncle Willy: Yes. Yes, he was. Winston.

**Flora**: So, except for that one fateful year, Lake Natron is where our family has always and will always go to breed.

**Flavio**: Where life is safe and peaceful, free from destruction.

**Flynn**: Hey! Is that it, that beautiful lake down there? (pointing)

**Flo**: Come on everyone! Let's show them how awesome a perfect splash landing can be!

Flynn: Going down!

