

Episode Four Qingming and the Flower Season

Nana: What nice weather today!

Dean: Yangming Mountain really is abundant with everything, people, trees, and flowers!

Nana: Look! Mountains full of rhododendrons! How beautiful.

Dean: Yeah it really is beautiful. You know, the rhododendron is the city flower of Taipei.

Nana: Seems like you really love the rhododendron. Hey, guess what *my* favorite flower is?

Andy: Well, you're a girl, so...roses, violets, or the perfume lily?

Nana: No! My favorite flower is the white camellia. You are familiar with Alexandre Dumas' *Lady of the Camellias*, right?

Andy: Of course. It's a well-known classic. It's almost noon. I figure Cooper and May should be here soon.

(Cooper and May waves to them.)

Cooper: Sorry to keep you waiting. Today's April 5, Qingming Festival. I went with my family to visit the graves of our ancestors. [He came late because he went tomb sweeping with his family]

Nana: Qingming Festival? What's that?

May: Qingming Festival is also called Tomb Sweeping Festival. On this day we visit the tombs of our ancestors to honor them.

Nana: Oh, hey! In the U.S., westerners observe All Saints' Day on Nov. 1. They take chrysanthemums to the graves of deceased relatives.

Cooper: In Taiwan, people with different religions honor their deceased relatives in

different ways and with different types of offerings.

May: Most families burn incense and paper money at their ancestors' graves.

Nana: Why do they do this?

May: They want their ancestors to be without want up in heaven.

Nana: For Westerners, this tradition of burning paper money is very unusual!

May: I bet! Westerners and Easterners honor their dead in very different ways.

Dean: But the feelings they have towards their deceased relatives are the same!

