

# Sample Interview Questions for Terry Marshall

## Author of *Soda Springs: Love, Sex, and Civil Rights*

1. What's *Soda Springs* about? Give us a quick synopsis.
2. Your bio sounds as if you've lived *Soda Springs*. Is it really a novel . . . or a memoir? What prompted you to write it?
3. *Soda Springs* is set in 1963 and deals with a variety of themes. You say it "offers our listeners a portal to a range of contemporary issues." How so?
  - **Mexican-Americans:** How does the Mexican-American civil rights struggle of the '60s relate to Hispanic issues today? Illegal immigrants, for instance?
  - **Martin Luther King:** How do Mexican-American issues relate to Martin Luther King? What does MLK's "children's crusade" or his "I have a dream speech" – both of which play large roles in *Soda Springs* – tell us about issues today?
  - **Hardball politics:** How are small-town "hardball politics" relevant to today's political landscape?
  - **Migrants:** We seldom hear about farmworkers today. Isn't that a tale of the past?
  - **Discrimination:** You paint a bleak picture of prejudice and discrimination in one tiny town. Isn't that pretty much a problem from the past as well?
  - **Community change:** *Soda Springs* is about people trying to change a backward community. Mostly, they fail. What's the point – that you can't change things?
4. In some ways, *Soda Springs* presses the boundaries of political correctness. Plenty in here will irritate, anger, or turn some readers off. How do you justify the:
  - **Racism:** use of blackface, Aunt Jemima, the n-word. Is it a racist book?
  - **Graphic sex:** some of the sex is quite explicit. Is this really necessary, or are you merely pandering to today's low standards?
  - **Sacrilege:** *Soda Springs* pokes fun at Martin Luther King, at a mentally challenged high school girl, at religion. Your main characters – teenagers – have sex in the church! Are you being outrageous to sell more copies?

To schedule an interview, contact:

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