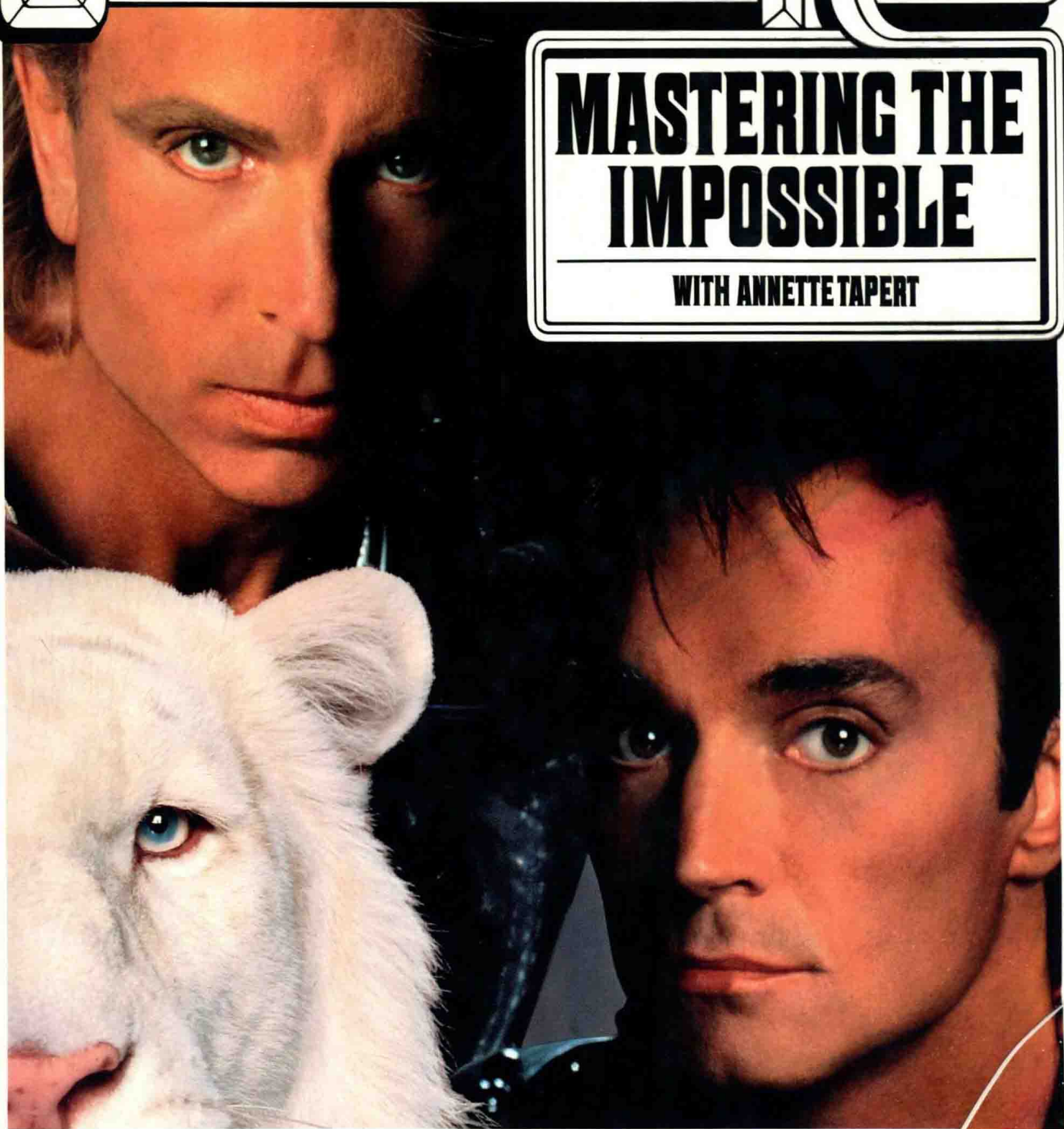


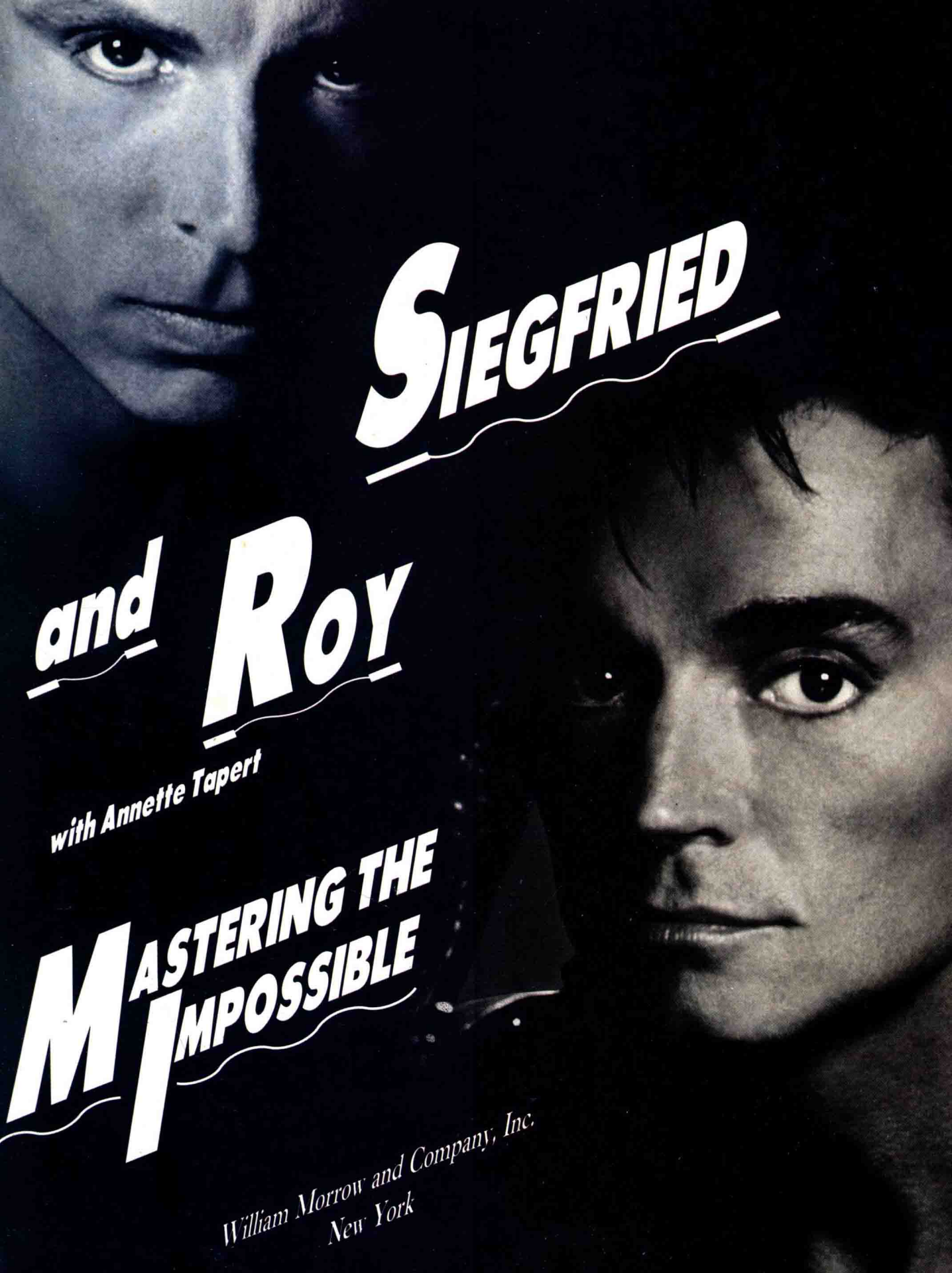
SIEGRIED & ROY

**MASTERING THE
IMPOSSIBLE**

WITH ANNETTE TAPERT



THE TRUTH BEHIND THE MAGIC...



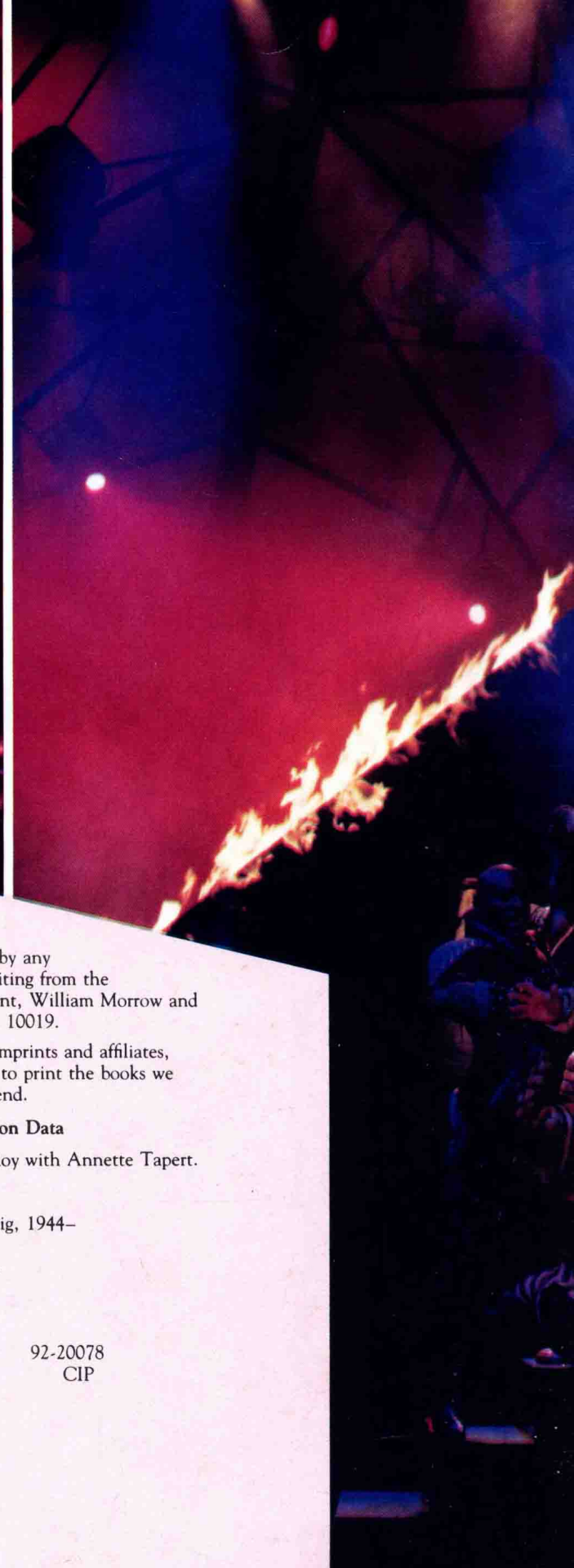
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**MASTERING THE
IMPOSSIBLE**

*William Morrow and Company, Inc.
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TNT









Prologue

It took a great deal of courage to write this book.

The first rule of magic is that a magician never tells his secrets. We are respectful of our profession, and we would never do that. But what was the alternative: a celebrity scrapbook, with an unbroken stream of anecdotes that reveals everyone's character except our own?

Well, there was the true story. And that terrified us. If we wrote honestly about our lives—which began with difficulty and great unhappiness—would we destroy the fantasy and effortlessness that magic requires? Could we bear to share stories that we had never told anyone and, in some instances, had never even told each other? How would our audience regard such revelations?

It was when we began to delve into our childhoods that we understood there was a powerful link between our reality and our magic, for our reality, even at its darkest, turns out to be the source of our magic. By strength, will, and determination, we rose from unwholesome environments in our native Germany. We followed our dreams, for dreams were all we had. In the process our lives became magical.

Today we read so much about the dramas of childhood that it seems miraculous anyone becomes a successful adult. We identify with those who struggle against demons—child abuse, alcoholism, divorce, dysfunctional families, poverty. But we don't view any of these tragic situations as excuses for defeat or explanations for despair. And so we write not as masters of illusion but as masters of human possibility.

That philosophy propels us to write a book that is far from the one we had envisioned; we fervently believe that no matter where you come from or how hard your life is, you have the power to take your fantasies and make them real. It takes belief and effort and honesty. And, of course, courage.



Welcome, Bienvenue, Willkommen







ACT ONE

*Within all of us there is an
elusive melody which when
heard and followed leads to the
fulfillment of our fondest
dreams.*

—SIEGFRIED AND ROY



Sigfried x Ror

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