

BAPTISM OF FIRE

IAN LITTLE

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Given the calibre of some of the records that benefited from his studio expertise, with Roxy Music's *Avalon* and Duran's Duran's *Seven And The Ragged Tiger* among them, it's remarkable producer Ian Little's life could waver so extremely from the highs of his time working on those albums to the catastrophic lows he later experienced – subject to him receiving, by his own admission, "too much too soon".

Little's story is extraordinary due to the series of chance encounters with Supertramp and Phil Manzanera that led to him becoming a producer, working with Roxy and Cliff Richard before landing a role alongside Alex Sadkin on Duran Duran's *Seven And The Ragged Tiger* – the creation of which forms the bulk of

Ian's enlightening book. A wild ride taking in sessions with Le Bon and co. in Sydney, Cannes, Montserrat, New York and Sri Lanka, *Baptism Of Fire* talks at length about the recording of the album and the mania that he witnessed first-hand on the road with the fab five at their peak before the private jets and penthouses were brought to a crashing end as problems with addiction culminated in Ian sleeping in New York 'flophouses' and on

the streets of London.

Ultimately inspirational, *Baptism Of Fire* is a cautionary tale taking in Little's enlightenment through self-examination and spirituality, to share the knowledge he's gleaned from even the most desperate of circumstances. **Mark Lindores**

