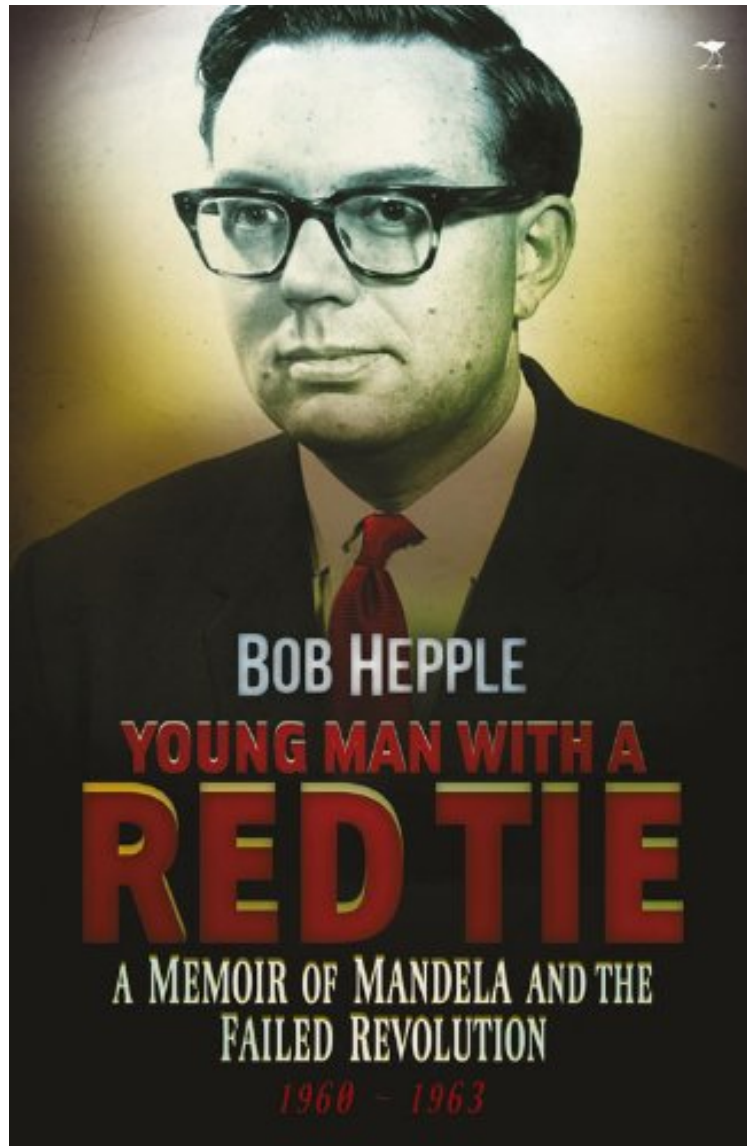


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## Young Man with a Red Tie: A Memoir of Mandela and the Failed Revolution, 19601963

*Bob Hepple*

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**Bob Hepple : Young Man with a Red Tie: A Memoir of Mandela and the Failed Revolution, 19601963** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Young Man with a Red Tie: A Memoir of Mandela and the Failed Revolution, 19601963:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Lisa S ProvidencePerson it was purchased for loved it0

of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wrong place, wrong timeBy keetmomAnyone who knows anything about Nelson Mandela knows he was sentenced to life imprisonment in apartheid South Africa together with a number of ANC colleagues at the Rivonia Trial. The trial was so named because most of the accused excluding Mandela were arrested together in dramatic circumstances at a small holding in the Johannesburg suburb of Rivonia. Just as the group was sitting down to review secret plans for political insurrection the security police burst in and arrested them. Bob Hepple a young activist was never meant to be there, he was not part of the ANC high command, he was there on an errand, but he was rounded up with the others and placed in solitary confinement to face the unwelcome attentions of the interrogators on his own. Hepple had been active in resistance circles, but was growing anxious about the shift to armed struggle and had in fact been slowly extricating himself from some of the more radical groups he had belonged to, but without making a scene about any of it. The state was pushing for the death penalty for the Rivonia trialists. Hepple's dilemma was an agonising one - stick with the group and risk losing his life for something he wasn't part of, or be seen to abandon them and cut a deal with the police. Bob Hepple was the young man with the red tie and this book is the story of his life before, during and after the Rivonia Trial. It has moments of great drama when he flees the country and when he attempts to engage the leadership to sanction his proposed action. The abiding feeling one gets in reading this account written after the eventual dawn of a democratic South Africa is of Hepple's only partially suppressed feelings of abandonment at the lingering suspicion with which he was held by the liberation movement, notwithstanding the support he believed he secured from Mandela and others for his decision to plea bargain. He may have escaped a lengthy jail sentence, but he was never again a truly free man.

It is November 1963. The white police state has captured almost all the underground leaders of the struggle against apartheid, including Nelson Mandela, and put them on trial on charges that carry the death penalty.

About the AuthorBob Hepple was born in South Africa in 1934 and was active as a student leader and in the South African Congress of Trade Unions. He participated in the underground struggle against apartheid, and acted as a lawyer for Mandela and other leaders. He escaped to England from the Rivonia trial in 1963, and was a banned person in South Africa until 1990. He is an international expert and activist in the fields of labour law, equality and human rights, Emeritus Master of Clare College and Emeritus Professor of Law in the University of Cambridge, a Queen's Counsel and Fellow of the British Academy.