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## ANGRY HARVEST

Simple farmers became major landowners during World War II by taking over property confiscated from Jews. *Angry Harvest* is about one such, Leon Wolny (Armin Mueller-Stahl), a shy, middle-aged man who, encouraged into profiteering by friends, also gives shelter to Rosa, a refugee Jewess (Elisabeth Trissenaar). His priest seems to encourage him: "It's no sin to be rich. Not being merciful is a sin."

Less charitably, Wolny withholds the news from Rosa that her husband is alive, and they become lovers. They speak of marrying after the war and he begins instructing her in Catholicism. Sometimes they argue about religion, then laugh, "How absurd it is to fight for the faith in our situation!"

Several other people from this area near the Polish border are vividly portrayed, although some incidents are so sketchy as to be confusing. A number of different viewpoints receive an airing in the screenplay co-authored by director Agnieszka Holland, but the focus on the main characters is never lost. Mueller-Stahl and Trissenaar make them stand out in bold relief from the madness around them, with the former especially good as a man who suddenly finds new uses for his brain and genitalia.

*Angry Harvest* does an excellent job of bringing the holocaust down to an intimate, personal level. (Cannery)