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Touchez pas au grisbi

The French title of Jacques Becker's 1953 gangster thriller translates as "Hands Off the Loot," but a much better English title used for this film is *Honor Among Thieves*. Jean Gabin wasn't yet 50 when he starred as a big-time, high-style gangster hoping to retire, but he still looks pretty wasted, and this pungent tale about aging and friendship, adapted from a best-selling noir thriller by Albert Simonin, would be hard to imagine without his puffy features. Jeanne Moreau,

in one of her first parts, plays a showgirl who two-times Gabin's similarly aging partner (Rene Dary), and future star Lino Ventura also puts in an appearance. But it's Gabin's show all the way, anticipating the melancholy, atmospheric gangster pictures of Jean-Pierre Melville that started to appear a couple years later. In French with subtitles. 94 min. Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State, Wednesday, February 19, 6:00, 312-846-2800.

—Jonathan Rosenbaum