The stolen snapshot is a staple of the modern tabloid press, as ubiquitous as it is notorious. The first in-depth history of tabloid photojournalism, Ryan Linkof’s forthcoming book Public Images explores the origin of the unauthorized celebrity photograph in the early 20th century, tracing its rise in the 1900s through to the first legal trial concerning the right to privacy from photographers shortly after the Second World War. This paper examines the enduring influence of the tabloid snapshot, in popular culture and in the realm of fine art.