

The New Criterion

Notebook

April 2009

Cats may look at kings

by [Anthony Daniels](#)

On the cult of celebrity.

Not long ago, I met the son of an American friend of mine in New York for lunch. He had been brought up in California but had come east to pursue a career in journalism. He wrote about such matters as style and fashion for a magazine with a circulation of two million that, he said, was struggling financially. I did not at this point in the conversation mention the circulation of *The New Criterion*.

I asked him about his life. He had not much money, and lived in a very small apartment with other young people who were just starting out in life; evidently it was not easy for him, for he was unaccustomed to discomfort. "But," he said, with something like a light in his eyes, "when I walk down the street, I sometimes see a celebrity, and there's nowhere else that could happen."

Though we were speaking the same language and drinking the same soup, I ...

Anthony Daniels's most recent book is *In Praise of Prejudice* (Encounter Books).

[more from this author](#)

This article originally appeared in *The New Criterion*, Volume 27 April 2009, on page 76

Copyright © 2012 The New Criterion | www.newcriterion.com

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Cats-may-look-at-kings-4063>