

*The Second Mrs. Astor*, Shana Abé

*The Second Mrs. Astor* is a beautifully written fiction account of the early life of Madeleine Astor, the second wife of Jack Astor. It is historical fiction and brings to life the unique life of America's wealthiest socialite in the early 1900s.

Madeleine is barely 17 when she captures the attention of Jack Astor, who is 46, divorced, and has a son only a few months younger than Madeleine. In spite of all society's rules (or maybe to spite the rules), Jack pursues and convinces Madeline to marry at only 18. It doesn't take much, as she finds herself totally in love with him. Soon after their marriage, in part to escape the pressures of moving into Jack's life, the Astors take a trip to Egypt, a wonderful extended honeymoon that brings them home on the Titanic. Fiction and fact blend in this story as Madeleine "writes" the story for her son, who will never meet his father.