



## Spider Man

Nicholas Milton

*Bury your mistakes.*  
Rupert Murdoch

**N**ATION: **NEWS CORP**

FOUNDED: March 15, 1980

CAPITAL: New York City

GDP: \$9.88 billion (revenues, 2023)

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**OBSESSION: Season 1, Episode 1:  
“Constipation”**

The Moloch family gather to celebrate the 87th birthday of Rupert Moloch, CEO of the diabolical media conglomerate News Corp.

Rupert’s oldest son James believes he will be the company heir following his father’s retirement, but Rupert announces that he intends to live forever, and no matter how senile he becomes, he will never step down.

On the trip back to NYC on his 140-foot yacht, Rupert trips over the toilet in the dark, breaking his back, and is flown to a hospital.

**Season 1, Episode 2: “Shanghai Girl”**

Rupert’s fourth wife, Jerry Trawl, ex-partner of aging Rolling Gallstones frontman Mick Swagger, blames Rupert’s back injury on third wife—and notorious “gold-digging Shanghai Girl”—Wendy Dung, who she claims once pushed Rupert off a piano for singing “Waltzing Matilda” on karaoke night.

**Season 1, Episode 3:**

**“The Ghosts of News Corp Past”**

Near death and delirious from painkillers, Rupert is forced to review his wretched life. At night, he is visited by a succession of terrifying ghosts from News Corp’s past, among them gay TV host Russell Harty. Harassed mercilessly by the homophobic Moloch’s *Sun* tabloid while dying of hepatitis in a hospital in 1988, Harty tells Rupert that it was Moloch’s gutter press that ultimately finished him off.

**Season 1, Episode 4:****“Did He Jump or Was He Pushed?”**

While continuing to recover from his fall, Rupert is visited by the ghost of his fiercest rival, Robert Maxwell, who drowned in suspicious circumstances in 1991. Maxwell tells Rupert he knows full well that Rupert hired someone to push him when he was peeing off the deck of his yacht late at night.

**Season 1, Episode 5: “Tony Blair’s War”**

Still confined to his bed, Rupert is visited by the ghosts of hundreds of thousands of innocent victims of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, who tell the terrified mogul that they would probably still be alive if not for the rabid support of the war by the Moloch-owned Fox News and his 175 newspapers.

**Season 1, Episode 6: “Unmollified Milly”**

Rupert is confronted by the last and most terrifying of his late night specters, the ghost of Milly Dowler, who was found raped and murdered in 2002 after agents hired by Moloch’s *News of the World* illegally hacked her voicemail, deleting evidence that may have led to her killer. Whimpering, Rupert protests that after getting caught approving thousands of phone hacks, he agreed to shut down the 168-year old paper.

**Season 2, Episode 3: “A Bigly Mistake”**

Seeking to regain Rupert’s favor, James ridicules Lachlan at a family gathering for allowing Fox News to promote Donald Trump’s stolen election conspiracy claims, costing News Corp \$1.4 billion in fines.

Rupert tells James he knew that Trump was “an idiot” but approved the story after Lachlan told him Fox’s low ratings were causing him to lose his beauty sleep.

**Season 3, Episode 6:****“I Can’t Get No Satisfaction”**

Six years after marrying Jerry Trawl, Rupert dumps her in a tactless, business-like email.

Mick Swagger sends a security team to her home to remove the cameras the jealous old bastard secretly installed to spy on her.

Meanwhile, Jerry makes a crude effigy of Rupert, strangles the doll with dental floss, and burns it to ashes on a BBQ grill.

**Season 4, Episode 3:****“Let’s Call the Whole Thing Off”**

Shortly after dumping Jerry, Rupert gives a \$2.5 million engagement ring to socialite Ann Lesley Smith. Their idyll lasts all of two weeks, until Rupert becomes outraged by Smith’s praise of Fox News host Mucker Carlson as “a messenger from god.” Weeks later, Moloch also abruptly fires Carlson.

**Season 4, Episode 9:****“What a Tangled Web We Weave”**

Having in recent years suffered a broken back, seizures, heart problems, two bouts of pneumonia, a torn tendon, and Covid—and yet seeming to just go on and on like the Energizer bunny—Rupert, now 92, shocks reporters by announcing his retirement.

In a brief statement, he reveals that he is handing over the reins of his media empire to favored son Lachlan, but insiders say James—whose sole mission in life is to destroy Lachlan’s Fox News—is just biding his time until he and his sisters, Prudence and Elisabeth, can wrest control of the company.

**Season 4, Finale: “Easy Money”**

Rupert ties the knot for the fifth time, wedding Elena Zhukova at a lush private ceremony at his vineyard estate in Bel Air. Zhukova’s daughter was married to Roman Abramovich, and she is herself the ex-wife of Russian oligarch Alexander Zhukova.

As a divorce lawyer once said of Moloch—at age 93 and with a current net worth of \$19.9 billion—“If he doesn’t have a cast-iron prenuptial agreement, he doesn’t need a lawyer, he needs a psychiatrist.” ■