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Well of Despair

Sarah Brown Weitzman

Abstract
As a follow up to that classic

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Well of Despair

by Sarah Brown Weitzman

As a follow up to that classic experiment done in the 60’s on young primates fed by wire figures, how they always rushed right after to snuggle with some padded forms though those never fed them anything nor ever hugged them back. What hunger that softness satisfied science wanted to know. So now to have the facts on this early lack of mother, a modern steel-lined crib for infant rhesus monkeys without the former cotton clutter, each in its own cylinder, sealed.

(The scientist had quite a bent for lab language who named that place
“a well of despair.”) Forty-five days and forty-five nights of maternal deprivation.

While it lasts each babe gives science its best moments, watching through one-way glass persistent spindly arms trying to cuddle the smooth steel sides of those metal mothers.