“For the betterment of science, or man” worked not at all, so they tried story B—
“it’s an adventure, undertaken for the purpose of obtaining a woman”—
which, with a few changes, got the monkey into the aluminized gloves, treated canvas and rubber stockings, and automated parachute, made of white nylon and seeming, when spilled, to shift and close in a way not entirely unlike their beloved, and he understood then that this nearness too was a kind of joy, and meant to ask the surrounding voices if all desires were given women’s names, but by this time the countdown had begun.