

The Expositions of Expressionism in Elliot Flower's *Winner's Loss*

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ABSTRACT

This paper underlines the idea of expressionism in flash fiction of Elliot Flower entitled Winner's Loss. Expressionism exposes ideas of distorted people and object, emotional pain and anguish, unrealistic feelings of modern world, and symbolistic understanding. This story tells about someone who entrusts the money to the main character name Jack and he accidentally loses the money and accuses someone else of being thief. It turns out the money is taken by Jack's wife because he lies to his wife by saying he did not have the money. By using qualitative method and explorative approach, the analysis includes how any gambling is actually expression of the desperate men. Those who hold to such gambling then are already at loss from the beginning. The money being gambled belongs to anyone but the ones that use it for another useful matter. In conclusion, expressionism in Flower's flash fiction indicates how the gambling, the loss of money, and the wife's attitude may intertwine consecutively to show any changing in the story of anyone's life in general.

1. Introduction

Flash fiction is a story where readers can conclude what happens in the story in just one understanding. This kind of fiction does not have to be interpreted from just one point of view. It usually has hidden meanings inserted by the writers which sometimes makes readers guess and furtherly imagine (Setyowati, 2016; Williams, 2014). That is indeed one strength of flash fiction. It lets, without any dictation, any audience or reader to imagine as someone will regard the story being read.

Winner's Loss is a flash fiction written by Elliot Flower in 2015. This story tells of a man named Jack Strong who is entrusted with four hundred dollars, worth of gambling money by his friend (Flower, 2015; Jones, 2013; Pasopati, et al., 2024). He accidentally loses it and blames it on someone else. Soon, he realizes that he lies to his wife about having no money. It is his wife that takes the money and pays it to the mortgage.

Furthermore, the way how Flower writes is outstanding. The dictions being used are not that simple. Those are deep and meaningful as the author could shape audience's imagination to such complex sense. This flash fiction transcends the boundaries of

conventional storytelling, offering readers narrative rich in complexity, moral ambiguity, and thematic depth. In this brief tale, Flower intertwines the themes of deceit, moral compromise, and the consequences of one's actions with elements of expressionism. By stating so, this literary work is also in line with that movement known for its emphasis on subjective experiences, emotional intensity, and distortion of reality.

Expressionism is categorized as such aesthetic wave. It affects any kind of art, from painting, picture, and even literary works. In this wave, the main idea is to put forward the concept of expression itself (Kirchner, et al., 2022; Radaeva, 2022; Wijaya, 2024). It is praised as the advantage of being human. It is such fruit of human's thought as well. In aesthetic aspect, it is also related to existentialism. This wave specifically resists such aspects that generalize everything. It does not depend on sole understanding to make an art. It employs differences by indicating various representative symbolic types rather than fully developed particularized characters (Flower, 2015; Jones, 2013; Pasopati, et al., 2024). It works through ecstatic minds that revolutionary affects valuable vision of life. It also underlines various matters of distorted people and object, emotional pain and anguish, unrealistic feelings of modern world, and symbolistic understanding.

This paper would like to investigate idea of expressionism in Flower's flash fiction. The intention is indeed to show how each word, sentence, and even paragraph of that fiction underlines matter of aesthetic expressionism. The ways Flower write is not to simply point out the conflict, but the author gives perspective of simplicity above further complexities. The author provides expression of hatred, anger, angst, and even regret merely in words but with deep interpretations in between (Flower, 2015; Jones, 2013; Pasopati, et al., 2024). It is not only about the main character that makes sense, but also the other figures including second, third, and even fourth characters as well. The expressionism in this fiction is also seen in how Flower employs such plot twist at the end of this particular literary work.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Aesthetic Expressionism and Its Prolonged Conditions

Expressionism, in general, works through subjective aspects. That idea tries to explore more into ideas of meanings. Any sign related to art is more dug to indicate various symbolic situations. Any artist related to expressionism also employs further ideas of emotional experience. It goes on beyond any physical sense and metaphysical either (Dewangga, et al., 2024; Hamilton & Renger, 2017; Radaeva, 2022). It is conditioned through meanings of being particular, individual, and reject further indications of positivism. There is nothing universal in expressionism as any essential aspect is actually changing and yet so existential in its process.

Expressionism, with its core focus on individual perception and emotion, diverges significantly from other artistic movements by emphasizing subjective experience over objective representation. This aesthetic approach encourages artists to explore personal and emotional realms, often resulting in distorted realities that challenge conventional views of truth and beauty (Hamilton & Renger, 2017; Radaeva, 2022). The movement's critique of modern society reflects its resistance to the dehumanizing effects of industrialization and technological advancement, emphasizing the emotional and psychological impacts of such changes. By portraying alienation and existential despair,

expressionism seeks to illuminate the complexities of human experience and societal failures. This exploration is not just a reflection of internal struggles but a broader commentary on the disconnect between personal realities and societal expectations (Perl, 2014; Wolf, 2004).

Ideas of expressionism in literature are more intended to communicate deep emotion, subjective experience, and a warped reality. It brings forward any humanization left by modernism (Gilbert, 2023; McLaughlin & DeVoogd, 2020; Wolf, 2004). It employs more conventions in representations in aesthetic sense it does not believe to such middle way or *mittleglied* in Kantian aesthetic sense. For expressionists, any unpleasant manner is welcomed as long as it has purpose to refuse such dominant and stable structure. By stating so, expressionism also explains capacity to resist generalized visual emotions.

In general, expressionism works through various criteria as follows. The first one is about subjectivity and emotion. Through those two aspects, expressionism emphasizes matters of personal experiences, emotions, and views (Gilbert, 2023; McLaughlin & DeVoogd, 2020; Wolf, 2004). Various reactions according to the authors are mostly underlined in this idea. The more subjective aspects being upheaved, the more it could express ideas of everyday life of the authors. Expressionism may still employ any kind of symbol and sign, but those are intended to shape emotional actions and reactions in receptive ideas. Any kind of vivid idea is permitted in expressionism since it frees ideas of connections between authors and audience (Dewangga, et al., 2024; Hamilton & Renger, 2017; Radaeva, 2022). By stating so, expressionism would like to shorten the gap between them two matters by going towards the emotions being felt.

The second one is about distorted reality. This aspect is interesting since this also intersects with ideas of structuralism in expanding meanings through signs and symbols. Meanwhile, its particularity is located in the alteration of the realities. Expressionism does not exactly points out to the main reality (Dewangga, et al., 2024; Hamilton & Renger, 2017; Radaeva, 2022). Instead, expressionists make such realm in which intense emotions are intended. Therefore, the aesthetic art of expressionism must not always about the reality, but it could always be expanding representations of it. This wave of art may also use such language distortion to convey various ideas of angst, anguish, an even anxiety (Kirchner, et al., 2022; Radaeva, 2022; Wijaya, 2024). Surreal and fantastic reality may also be endowed to show any flaws in reality. Indeed, there is no perfectness in expressionism, but a realm full of lacks. It could always be exaggerated or twisted alongside non-linear viewpoints in which such instability lies within.

The third one is that expressionism may always contain such critique of society. It is due to its nature of expressionism that goes ahead against any progress done by modernism. This aesthetic movement strikes towards ideas of stable society. It brings such criticism against dehumanization and how industries, information, and also technology may disconnect people from realm life (Dewangga, et al., 2024; Hamilton & Renger, 2017; Radaeva, 2022). Class struggle and social inequalities indeed are also the targets of expressionism. In many times, even darkness is more enhanced than the light itself. It shows the greed, sadism, and even cruelty of people rather than any ethical good attitude demanded by societies in general. Expressionism rather shows such dystopia than trying to mumble about any utopia

of good modernity. It speaks about the ruses among the common people rather than speaking the mouthful words from any famous persons and leaders.

The fourth one, it is also famous that expressionism brings forward the ideas of alienation to any aesthetic art. Estrangement is used to be introduced to show how modernization alongside industrialization may always dehumanize people. Those two aspects bring more uneasiness than happiness. Those also create such dread in which uncertainties are blossomed. Various despair is also in line with any alienation since meaninglessness is everywhere shaping such further depressing moods (Pasopati, et al., 2024; Perl, 2014; Wolf, 2004). Social changes also create enhanced disruptions against inner and outer conflicts of various characters. It even also changes ideas of identities towards unknown realities in between. Therefore, expressionism comes forward to unbox complicated persons' psychological understandings.

Four aspects above show that expressionism is not merely expressions of authors or artists, but it has become such wave that changes how the society looks forward (Kirchner, et al., 2022; Radaeva, 2022; Wijaya, 2024). It does not play along with ideas of modern issues, but it fights against any progress by indicating any bad idea of utopic stable societies. In realities, people are full of uncertainties; they may consist of bad, dark, and even various dizziness of despair of living the world.

Moreover, previous studies have been conducted within the senses of expressionism in literature. The first one is written by M. A. S. D. K. Digambarrao in 2022 entitled *Review of Romantic and Expressionist Elements in Selected Novels by Ernest Hemingway* (Digambarrao, 2022). This article accentuates how Hemingway indicates both romantic and expressive points in his novels. The similarity of that research and this one is the perspective of expressionism being used, while the difference is located at the object as the previous one underlines Hemingway's works while this one explores Flower's short fiction. The second one is composed by J. Shoults in 2023 entitled *Empathy for Outsiders in Women's Expressionist Literature* (Shoults, 2023). This journal shows that empathy is so clearly indicated in women's literature as one important aspect of its characteristics. The similarity of that journal and this one is the perspective of expressionism being used, while the difference is seen at the object as the previous one underlines women's literature while this one explores Flower's short fiction. The third one is noted by Y. Lysantes et al. in 2022 entitled *Anatomical and Physiological Terminology in the Austrian Expressionist Literature* (Lysantes, et al., 2022). This article shows how Austrian expressionist literature plays important roles in its structural senses of a nation. The similarity of that journal and this one is the perspective of expressionism being used, while the difference is seen at the object as the previous one underlines Austrian's literature while this one explores Flower's short fiction.

From those previous studies above, the research gap and its novelty of this research is clearly seen. It is known that expressionism is less explored and quite growing in literary studies. Moreover, Flower's short fiction is never explored from the perspective of expressionism. This research is gaining purpose not only to enrich literary studies, but also to explore more expressionism in literature. Besides, this research can also upheave the crucial aspects of short fiction in literary world.

3. Research Methodology

This analysis uses the qualitative method, certain concept, and written data analyzed to answer the question on this paper. Written through descriptions, online and offline scripts are used to explain correlations between expressionism and flash fiction of *Winner's Loss*. The data collection technique is through closed reading. The data analysis is content analysis that includes attaining sources, reading sources carefully, comparing with other issues, quoting into paper, and writing down in references lists. The research data comes from idea of expressionism and Flower's flash fiction.

4. Findings and Discussion

4.1. Money, Gambling, and Its Continuance in Winner's Loss

Flower's flash fiction is quite interesting from the beginning. From the title, it is already intriguing. It speaks about such loss but experienced by the winner. Indeed, it is about an exact winning, but there is such act of losing being implied (Craft, 2012; Flower, 2015). It does not point out to the whole truth. Flower interestingly attracts the audience to read and understand more. Later, it is clear that this story is about money related to gambling. Somehow, the money is lost, but it is not done by the one who loses. It is the deed of another person related to the main character's life.

The data regarding the analysis of this paper are stated as follows;

Data 1

"Bet you fifty!"

"Aw, make it worthwhile."

"Two hundred!"

"You're on. Let Jack hold the stakes."

"Suits me." (Flower, 2015)

The above quotation shows that the main character from the story is doing a gamble with someone and betting fifty dollar for the gamble. The player of the gamble wants to add the amount of money that the character wants to use for betting (Craft, 2012; Flower, 2015). Someone of the gamble wants to increase the amount of money used for gambling from fifty dollars to two hundred dollars in the game. Jack as the main character is in for great luck because his friends say to let hold the stakes.

There is such trust be given in the quotation above. The trust is regarding two aspects; the way the money being put and to the Jack's hands it is placed. Indeed, the trust is given to Jack not because he is the gambler, but he is the one believed as someone who will not betray trust for money (Craft, 2012; Flower, 2015). Jack is holding the money as expression of a place of money in which trust is surely intended for him at the same time. This trust is a crucial element in the narrative, as it highlights the complexities of human relationships and the consequences of misplaced trust.

Data 2

Four hundred dollars was placed in the hands of Jack Strong by the disputious sports, and he carefully put it away with the lone five-dollar bill of which he was possessed.

Jack, although sportily inclined, lacked the cash to be a sport himself, but he was known to the two who thus disagreed, and they trusted him. He might be poor, but he was honest.

Nor was this confidence misplaced — at least so far as his honesty was concerned, although there might be question as to his judgment and discretion. (Flower, 2015)

The above quotation shows that Jack has been asked by his sports friend to bring the four hundred dollars. Jack also carries the money in his pocket and put it with the only five dollars of his money. Jack is a very sportily man, he could use that money by himself, but Jack will not do that (Flower, 2015; Setyowati, 2016; Williams, 2014). There is further exploration of trust due to the reality that Jack is an honest person. Both of his friends may doubt Jack's worth and wisdom, but he will not lie to use anything not belonged to his possessions. Despite his financial limitations, his friends trust him with a significant amount of money. The mention of Jack's honesty underscores the reliability he is known for. The contrast between his friends' high expectations and Jack's actual behavior highlights the complexities of their relationship and the trust issues that arise.

It is sensed that the above quotation underlines such complexities in the way his friends see Jack. They know that he is not that smart. He may be so careless, but he will not do any intentional action to use or lose the money. The expression that Flower employs underlining the steep difference between the life of Jack's and his two friends' (Flower, 2015; Setyowati, 2016; Williams, 2014). Any judgment toward Jack is forgotten by the friends as they only regard himself as someone that puts trust beyond any other else.

Data 3

For instance, carrying that much money, it was a foolish thing to let an affable stranger scrape a barroom acquaintance with him when he stopped in at Pete's on his way to his little mortgaged home. He realized that later. He was not drunk — positively, he was not drunk, for he recalled everything distinctly, but he did fraternize briefly with the jovial stranger. And in seeking his lone five-dollar bill, that he might return the stranger's hospitality, he did display the four-hundred-dollar roll. It was all very clear to him the next morning, when he found nothing in his pockets but the change from the five-dollar bill. (Flower, 2015)

The above quotation shows that Jack is losing the money. After he leaves his friends, he goes to a bar and has a drink, but he is not drunk at all. He remembers everything, but he still could not find the money. He may think that the money is robbed by someone, or even falls from his pocket. He only has five dollars and four hundred dollars. It is quite impossible that the five dollar is still there, but the big others are gone. Indeed, this event makes him suspicious of himself either as well.

Flower shows the complexities of event in some simple sentences. The author indicates how showing is always better than telling. It is always better to make audience understand the expressions shown, but not to explain the details being written (Flower, 2015; Setyowati, 2016; Williams, 2014). In this understanding, Jack is seen as the opposite from what his friends think of him. He could not be totally believed. He is actually a careless man and could not be trusted. He may be a kind man, but the paragraph above shows otherwise since he loses the money trusted to his own hands.

Data 4

Naturally, he hastened to Pete's to learn what he could of the amiable stranger, which was nothing. Then he sought his sporty friends, and made full confession. They regarded him with coldly suspicious eyes, deeming it strange that one so wise should happen to be robbed when he was carrying their money. He promised restitution, but they were not appeased, for well they knew that it would take him about four years to repay four hundred dollars.

He went to the police, and the police promised to do what they could to identify, locate, and apprehend the sociable stranger, but there was still much in the attitude of the sporty pair to make him uneasy.

He remained at home that evening, having neither heart nor money for livelier places, and about eight o'clock he had his reward. The police telephoned him that they had the genial stranger in custody.

"Hold him!" he cried jubilantly. "I'll be right down."
(Flower, 2015)

The above quotation shows Jack's efforts to regain trust after losing the money. Jack feels sorry for losing his friends' four hundred dollars. He confesses to his friends that he has been robbed on his way home. However, Jack's friend, the owner of the money, looks at Jack with a cynical and suspicious look because he thinks Jack has lied and used the money for his own matter. Then, Jack makes a promise by going to the police and gets the one who steals the money.

It is understood from the quotation that Jack has lost any trust given to him. No one believes him anymore. The way Flower indicates the loss is to contradict the amount of money and how Jack lives. Jack lives in a mortgaged house and will end up confused finding money to repay his friends. However, his friend never wants to believe Jack's sense of life. He only knows that his money is gone. The quotation later also initializes the way Jack would like to regain the trust by talking to the police. It is interesting how he expresses in regaining the trust by giving trust to other person that is the police. He even cries happily because the perpetrator of the robbery has been caught and he immediately goes to the police station.

Data 5

He was rushing for his hat when his wife, who had been strangely silent and thoughtful, stopped him.

"John," she said, "I'd like a word with you before you go out. Why have you deceived me?"

"Deceived you!" he exclaimed.

"Yes, deceived me," she repeated severely. "I've suspected this duplicity for some time, and now I have proof. When I asked you for ten dollars yesterday you said you didn't have it, but last night I found four hundred dollars in your pocket."

"Howling Petey!" he cried. "Great jumping grasshoppers! I've had a man arrested for that, and two others are just about ready to beat me up! Where is it, Mary — quick!"

"I applied it to the mortgage," she answered calmly.
(Flower, 2015)

The above quotation introduces a new character, Jack's wife, who reveals a surprising twist. The later condition shows that Jack's wife wants to discuss something very important, because her wife thinks that Jack has deceived her. She has found four hundred dollars in his pants pocket and assumes that Jack has lied to her. Jack feels happy because the money he has been looking for turned out to be with his wife. He tells his wife that he has accused someone else without evidence and has imprisoned that person. John feels happy and shouts at the good news. However, he must face another problem at the end as the story also ends.

Flower gives sense of plot twist by giving a new character unrelated to Jack's friends. She is actually related to Jack and it makes the problems going internal. The dialogues above shift the conflict from being external factors to internal intriguing thing (Flower, 2015; Setyowati, 2016; Williams, 2014). In this case, the problem also underlines that another complex point comes to surface. Jack could not be blamed because he actually does not lose the money. Yet, his wife is innocent too since she finds that money and uses it for better purpose. The expressions of these above dialogues are actually the loss of the innocence people who get trapped in the world of unintentionality (Flower, 2015; Setyowati, 2016; Williams, 2014). Unfortunately, the unintentional point is about gambling that includes abundant amount of money that is eventually not theirs.

4.2 Expressionism and Its Expressions in *Winner's Loss*

Flower's flash fiction indeed gives audience a more subjective and emotional experience. The imageries of that literary work create ambience that challenges senses and emotions. It contains various truths, but nothing is explained explicitly. It may only speak about gambling and betrayal, but through Flower's depiction then it means something else either (Flower, 2015; Perl, 2014; Wolf, 2004).

Furthermore, the analysis of Elliot Flower's *Winner's Loss* demonstrates the presence of expressionism in the story, particularly in terms of distorted characters, emotional pain, unrealistic feelings, and symbolistic understanding. The use of qualitative methods and analysis of the character's changing expressions highlight the influence of expressionism on

the progression of the story (Flower, 2015; Kirchner, et al., 2022). This fiction is not just the expression of the author, but also how it may enhance various understandings of flexible, ambiguous, and open meanings.

Through this fiction, the audience is provided by the plots and characters, but both of them are interconnected in such complex ideas in which flexibilities may lie within. Moreover, this work reflects such idea of expressionism that plays within imagined imaginations (Flower, 2015; Kirchner, et al., 2022; Radaeva, 2022). It works through imageries of social upheavals and anxieties, providing social commentary among the common people. The portrayal of Jack's destinies can be seen as a critique of social norms and the established participation in social inequalities. The culmination of Jack's experiences is his deepening sense of betrayal, the criticism of modernity, and the impact on his relationship. All of them emphasize the overarching theme of alienation and disillusionment. Flower's depiction of these elements invites readers to reflect on their own experiences and societal structures, fostering a deeper engagement with the narrative.

Winner's Loss explores human experience and philosophical issues. It moves among the complexity of success and failure, triumph and loss, and even betrayal and honesty (Flower, 2015; Furness, 2017; Perl, 2014). Simply put, this fiction provides audience by exposing human dualities. Things are never as they seem. In expressionism, it is also known that nothing is truly true. Any idea could always be contested by opposing such universalities from its internal and external factors. Flower would also like to upheave ideas of life's ambiguities and personal conflicts where emotional impacts are located.

In Data 1, the depiction of gambling is not clearly portrayed. The ambiguity surrounding the gambling scene highlights the subjectivity and informal nature of Jack's situation. It is even unclear to what they gamble about. The main idea is that the problem of gambling is so subjective. It goes alongside the trust given to Jack. Flower gives imageries that Jack is trusted but within such informal reality (Flower, 2015; Furness, 2017; Perl, 2014). The gambling is not done in casino so that it may be such friendly gambling but with true money being in stake. The reality here is quite distorted as the characteristic of expressionism. Later, it also gives clue about criticism to gambling that bring bad effects to society in general.

Data 2 shows such dualities of comparison between five and four hundred dollars. It is such irony that the one being trust is actually so poor. The contrast between five and four hundred dollars serves as a critique of societal values and economic disparity. This is such critique to society that even honesty only means nothing (Gasiorek, 2014; Jones, 2013; Pasopati, et al., 2024). It is an embraced value but will never change the true reality that is so distorted. There is also such alienation brought forward as the poor Jack is trusted with the money, but not as the one who plays. He is the one to blame though he will never enjoy any winning at all. Later, he is the one that must suffer due to his trust being played by his closest person. Jack is also the one whom emotions being intrigued. He is the side effect of modernization that should deal with gambling but only get little advantage from that (Gasiorek, 2014; Jones, 2013; Pasopati, et al., 2024). This is also such direct reflection to modernity with its believed trickle-down effect that actually never goes well in wider societies.

The depiction of Data 3 is when the conflict is incited. The problem comes to surface as the money is gone. Jack knows nothing about it and Flower perfectly shows his emotion by comparing his sober and drunk situation. Flower also underlines that Jack may not be drunk, but may not be robbed either. However, any poor man is having distorted reality in modern era (Flower, 2015; Lambert, 2012; Moran, 2017). They could only talk to the police and believe to that institution. The loss of the money indeed also shows how Jack is alienated by the four hundred dollars. He is like the one that holds the gambling but experiencing the biggest loss. It is in line with analogy of those who work in a company but will never enjoy the products of it (Gasiorek, 2014; Jones, 2013; Pasopati, et al., 2024). Furthermore, Jack's confusion and disorientation expose the fracturing of reality, reflecting the disillusionment faced by individuals within modern societal structures.

The Data 4 is when the distorted reality reaches its peak. Jack could not find the money and he could not go anywhere but to the police station. He could only hope for the best since the money is too big for him. He has lost the trust given to him. Interestingly, Flower employs another trust by making Jack go to the police. In this sense, Jack's emotion could clearly be seen as opaque with confusion, not transparent as how good things happen (Flower, 2015; Lambert, 2012; Moran, 2017). Later, the idea of putting trust to the police is actually doubtful either since the thief is wrongly caught. While Jack is the first one to blame, the second one is the police who have caught the wrong person. Jack's experience with the police showcases institutional failures, amplifying his sense of helplessness and mistrust in societal systems. Indeed, this is the distorted reality being provided by Flower as the author (Flower, 2015; Gasiorek, 2014; Moran, 2017).

Data 5 is more intriguing. The wife is the one to blame at the next time. Jack is really surprised by the true reality and it works well through the displayed subjective emotions. Jack is alienated not only by the money, but also by his wife's bad presumptions. He is only a victim of things he has not done. This is a reality in which so much hidden in modern literature that is used to speak of moral messages (Flower, 2015; Perl, 2014; Wolf, 2004). What Jack and his wife experience is the reality of a poor family that must live under a mortgaged house. They have no choice but doubting any little trust that they have to each other. The evolving blame between Jack and his wife highlights interpersonal conflicts and the strain of financial pressures on personal relationships. This is the sign of angst in symbolic aspects of marriage (Flower, 2015; Perl, 2014; Wolf, 2004). Furthermore, it also complicates the complex indications of friendship that Jack must face regarding the money being gambled.

In this flash fiction, Flower utilizes symbolic imagery not solely to communicate more profound concepts, but also to heighten the emotional impact of the work. The utilization of symbols enables readers to connect with the piece on a symbolic and emotional level, surpassing mere portrayal (Flower, 2015; Gasiorek, 2014; Wolf, 2004). It encourages its readers to interpret the meaning of the literary work through their own subjective encounters, fostering a more profound and personal association with the piece. This fiction is ambiguous intentionally. It is used to stimulate the readers to engage with the fiction on a deeper level, prompting introspection and emotional contemplation. In *Winner's Loss*, Flower's approach emphasizes the fragmented and subjective nature of reality, mirroring the themes of expressionism. By presenting a distorted reality, Flower criticizes societal norms and the inherent inequalities within modern life. This complexity is further enhanced

through symbolic imagery and the portrayal of Jack's emotional turmoil. Flower's work effectively engages readers, encouraging them to confront their own perceptions and the often-overlooked aspects of human experience, thus reinforcing the theme that reality is shaped by personal and societal constructs.

5. Conclusion

Elliot Flower's *Winner's Loss* is a flash fiction based on expressionism. This flash fiction effectively employs expressionist techniques to explore themes. The story's ambiguity and emotional depth encourage readers to engage with the text on a personal and introspective level, reflecting the core principles of expressionism. Its interesting plots and characters are endowed with characteristics of subjectivity and emotions. Moreover, Flower's use of symbolic imagery and narrative complexity challenges readers to engage deeply with the story's and the distorted reality alongside critique to society are also thick in this work as it displays matters of success and failure, triumph and loss, and even betrayal and honesty. It also employs alienated self against any modern condition that surrounds Jack but he never gets any advantage of it. In reverse, he is neither the winner nor the loser in that gambling situation, but he is the one that is lost in a confused condition. Flower's mastery in combining various themes and creating vivid images enhances the emotional effect of the story, further solidifying its classification as a major expressionist work.

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