

An Introduction to... Flash Fiction - Editing

How would you edit down the first paragraph of this story? Go through the text carefully and cross out:

- any words which don't add to the meaning;
- any phrases which repeat something which has already been said or implied;
- any excessive adverbs or adjectives.

Remember, you can also change the sentence and word order to make it shorter!

Scrambled Eggs

He stared dully at the scrambled eggs on his plate. They lay there, a sticky, cold and congealing mess which was a metaphor for his heart. Once, not so long ago, she had loved making him breakfast; she had lovingly set it before him every day, carefully placing the china plate, the knife and fork, the condiments. He had loved the small ritual of breakfast each morning. Each mouthful had been a testament to her love for him; a physical manifestation of her solicitude. Now, he just felt angry. How could he have swallowed those breakfasts so carelessly? He had ravenously gobbled up the toast, carelessly chewed the bacon, frantically gulped down the coffee, never realising that each serving was bringing him closer to the end, closer to the time when there would be no more.