



Take Me Home

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A Full English translation is available.

帶我回家

**Author:** Carbon **Illustrator:** Carbon **Publisher:** KADOKAWA TAIWAN CORPORATION

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**BFT2.0 Translator:** Christina Ng

In a small plushy shop, three handmade toys await a new beginning. Momo is an elephant plushy on the brink of being returned to his maker. Haru, a gruff rabbit, hides his longing for affection. Kenny, a well-worn bear, wishes to offer companionship. Each plushy carries the emotions and memories of the hands that made it, yet its future remains uncertain.

As they find their way into the lives of new owners, the plushies become silent witnesses in their homes. From broken families to unrequited adolescent love, these cuddly companions serve as trusted confidants. Absorbing tears and holding secrets, they carry the emotional weight of their young friends. Though unable to speak, they listen patiently and offer steadfast companionship. Tender and heartfelt, *Take Me Home* reveals, through the eyes of stuffed animals, the deepest desire of every young heart: to be understood, protected, and loved.



Author **Carbon**

Carbon is a manga and illustration artist whose skin amusingly shifts a shade between summer and winter. She was the Gold Award winner at the 2021 Bahamut ACG Creative Awards and is the author of the comic *Take Me Home*.

# Taiwan's Own *Toy Story*: These Handmade Plushies Long For Someone to Take Them Home

by Wen-Chien Hsu

As children, many of us had a beloved plushy. But have you ever wondered—if they had consciousness, how would they see us?

In the hands of artist Carbon, *Take Me Home* tells the story of a group of handcrafted plushies waiting on display shelves. They wait and hope, longing for someone to take them home and share in life's journey. Like the protagonists in *Toy Story*, they secretly come to life when no one is around. But unlike mass-produced factory toys, each one is meticulously handmade and carefully distributed to specialty shops, carrying the love and care of its creator.

Each plushy has its own distinct personality. Some are gentle and caring; some act tough but are soft-hearted and

secretly afraid of loneliness. Many lack confidence, just like the people who made them. The book also gives us a glimpse of their creators, all artisanal craftsmen. One seeks affirmation from their families; another wants to give a parting gift to his children before a divorce. And yet another, though no longer actively creating, still hopes his work finds a home where it's truly cherished. Because of this deeply personal process, every plushy is like a child—with a past, and with a soul.

Yet no matter their origin, they all share one desire: to be chosen, to become someone's companion. In the stories, Haru, a gruff rabbit, becomes a gift of confession between teenage lovers. Momo, an elephant plushy, reflects a father's quiet support for his daughter's

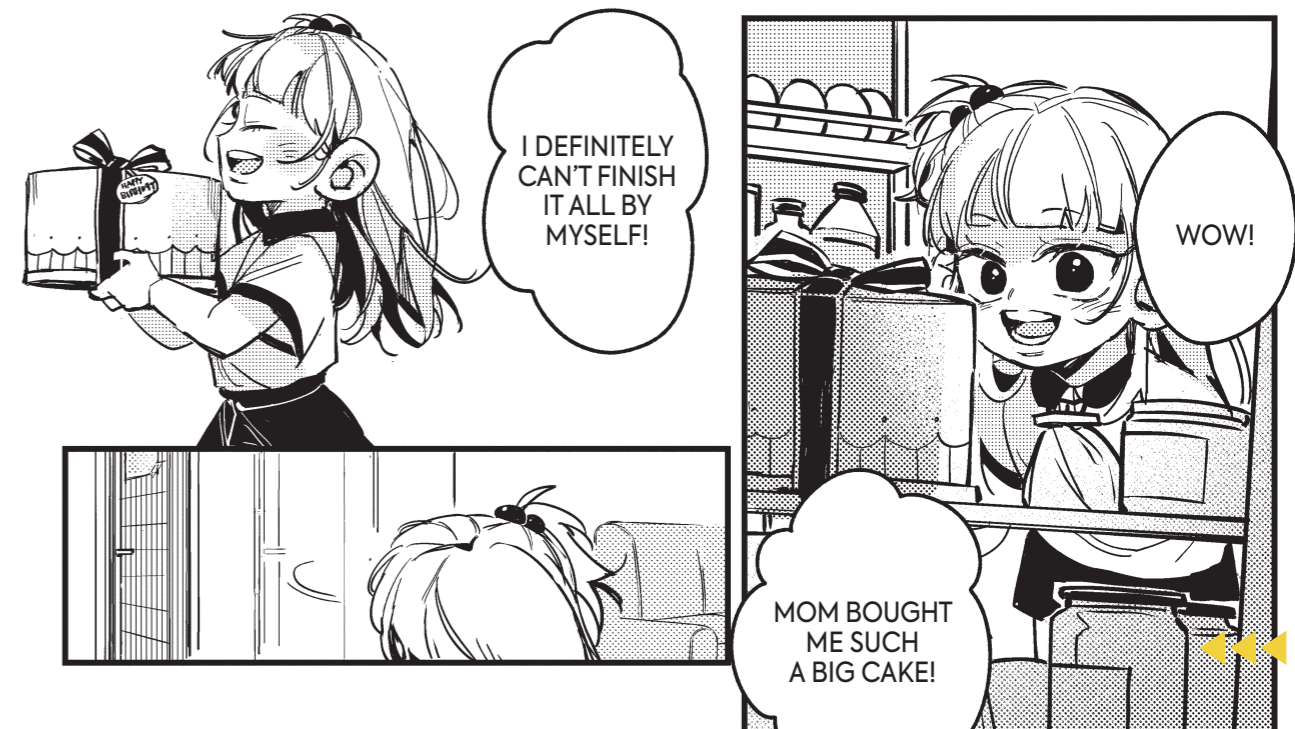
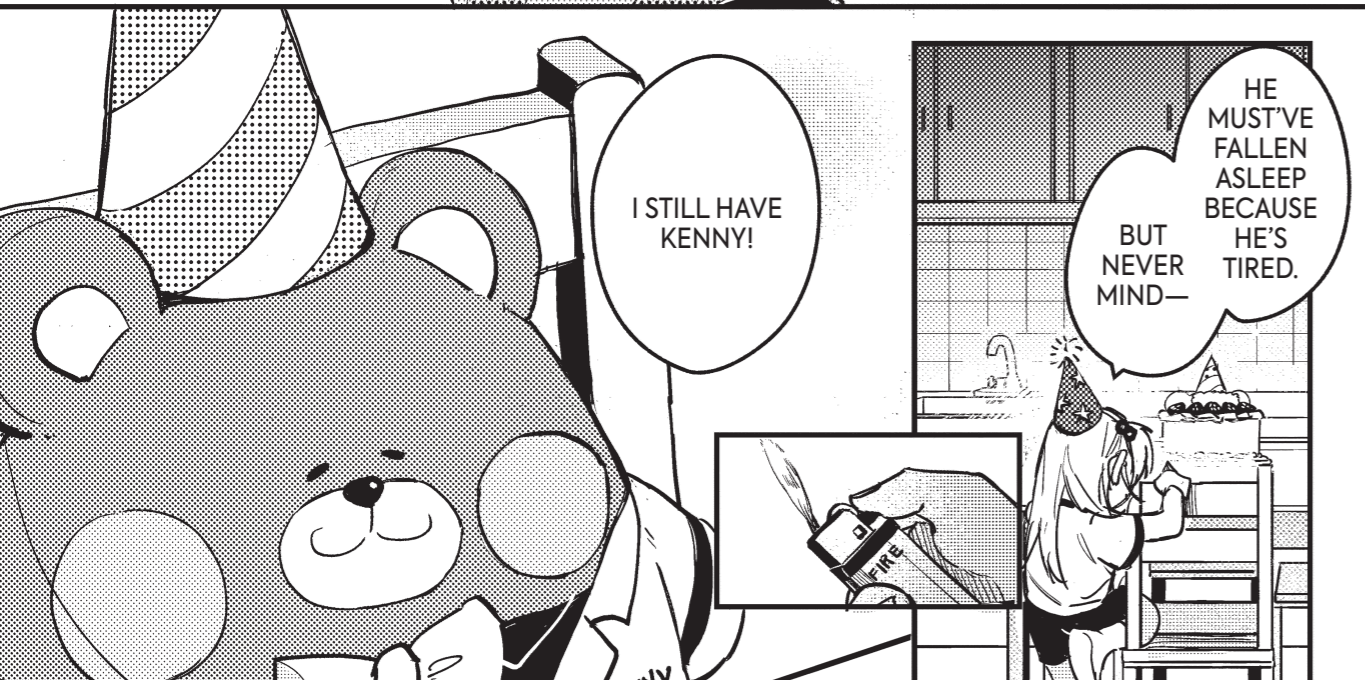
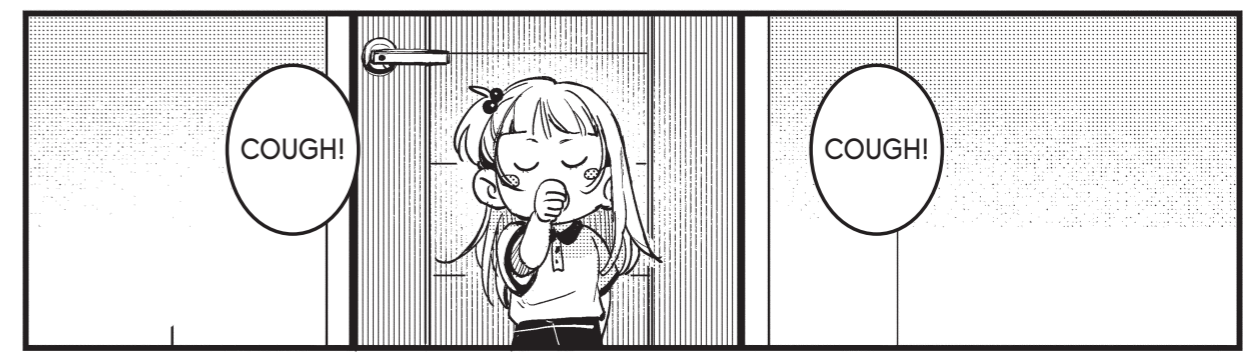
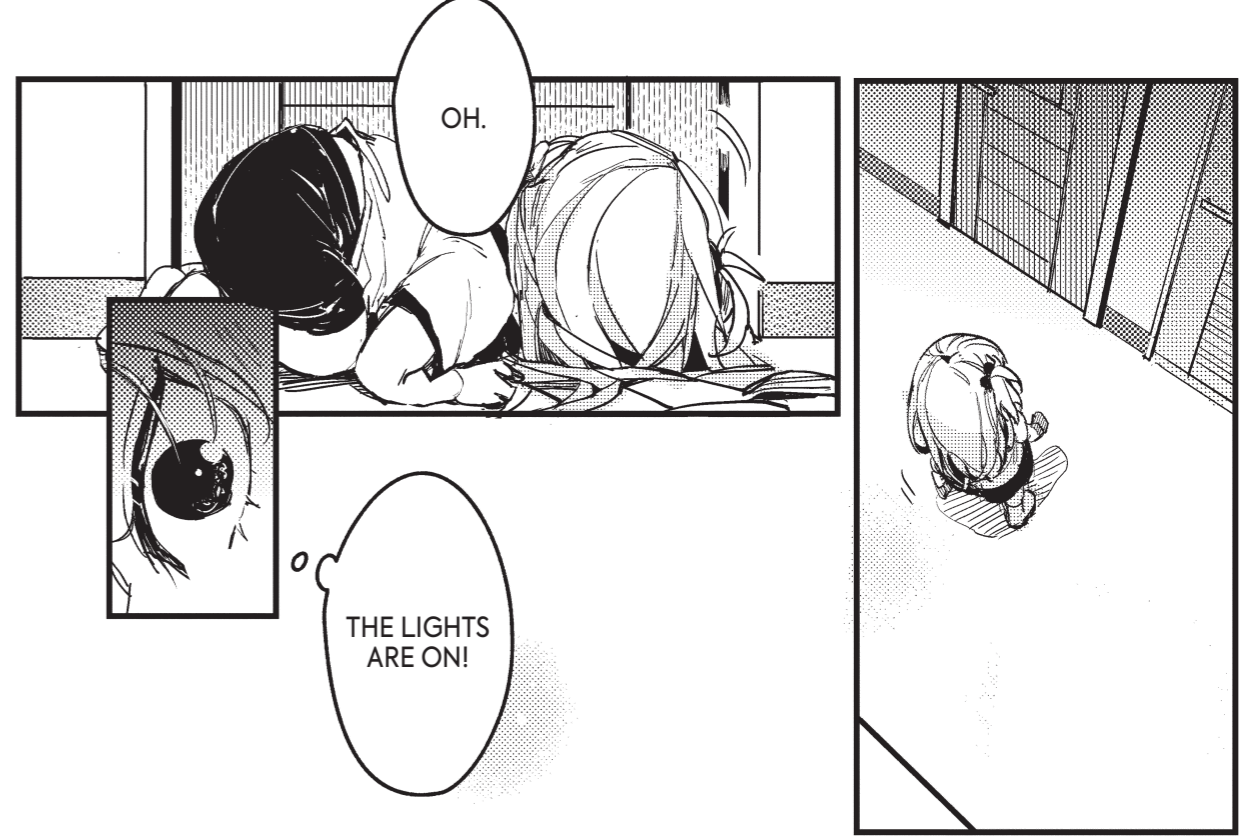
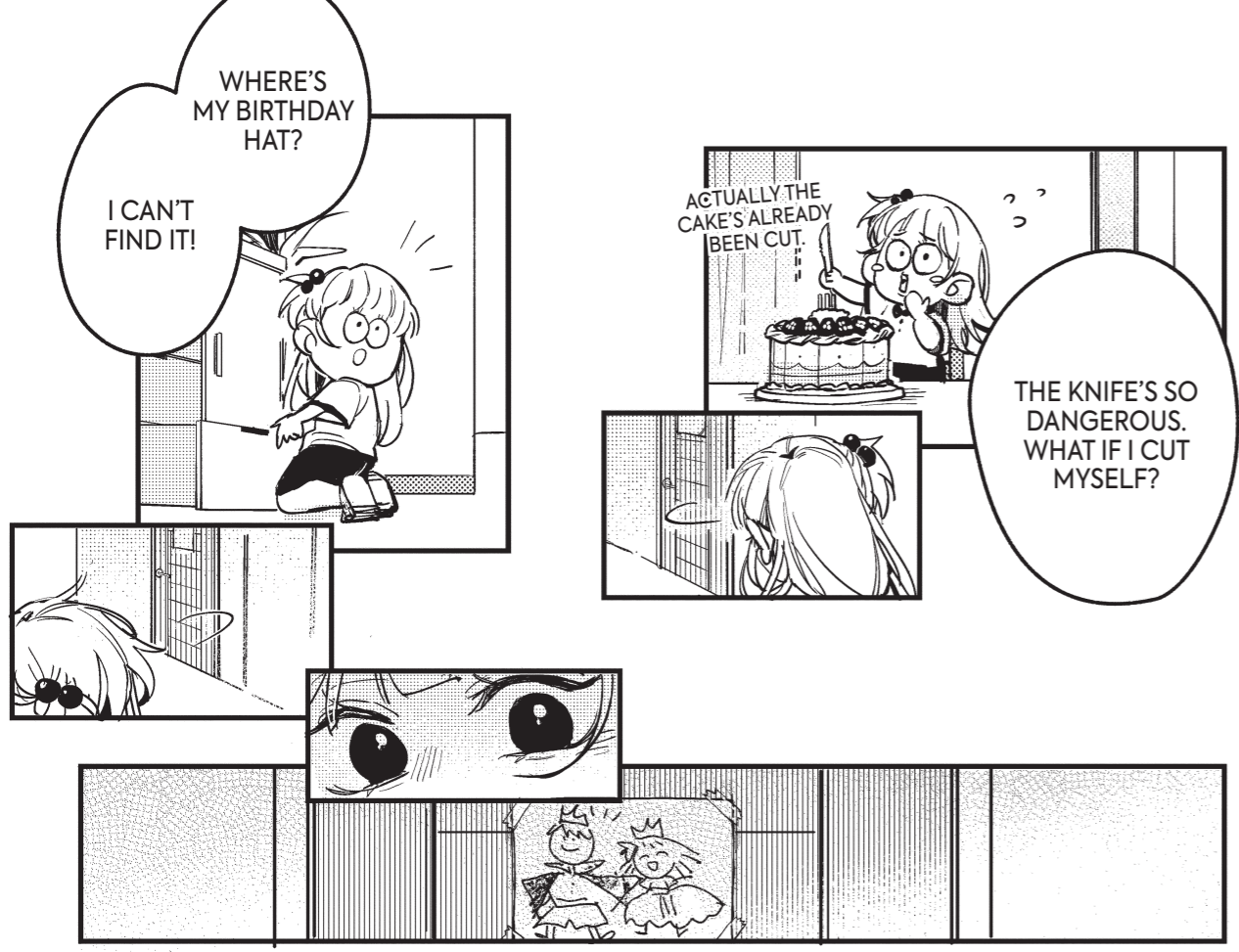
dreams. And Kenny, a bear, becomes a companion to a lonely girl hoping to reconnect with her brother, who has withdrawn from the world.

But we also see the plushies when they're waiting to be taken home. Some remain full of hope, while others gradually lose confidence, no longer believing they deserve to be loved. Just like the people who take them home—whether child or adult—we all long to be understood and accompanied. Even though the plushies cannot speak, they listen silently. Through companionship, they bring healing and bear witness to their owner's growth and the ups and downs of life.

As you read *Take Me Home*, you may feel a warmth rise in your heart, remembering that one plushy

or stuffed animal who stayed with you through childhood, adolescence, or even adulthood. Of course, we all resemble these plushies, too; each of us carries our own background and scars, but also the same longing to be seen and held. May these stories of plushies and their owners serve as a mirror, reflecting your own self and your relationships, and reminding you: You are worthy of love.

*Wen-Chien Hsu possesses a free-spirited soul. She has worked at LGBTQ+ organizations, the 113 Domestic Violence Hotline, and works as an editor of Books from Taiwan 2.0. She is dedicated to bringing Taiwanese comics and picture books to a global audience.*



YOU'VE GOT  
TO SING THE  
BIRTHDAY SONG  
WITH ME!

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
TO YOU...

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
TO YOU...

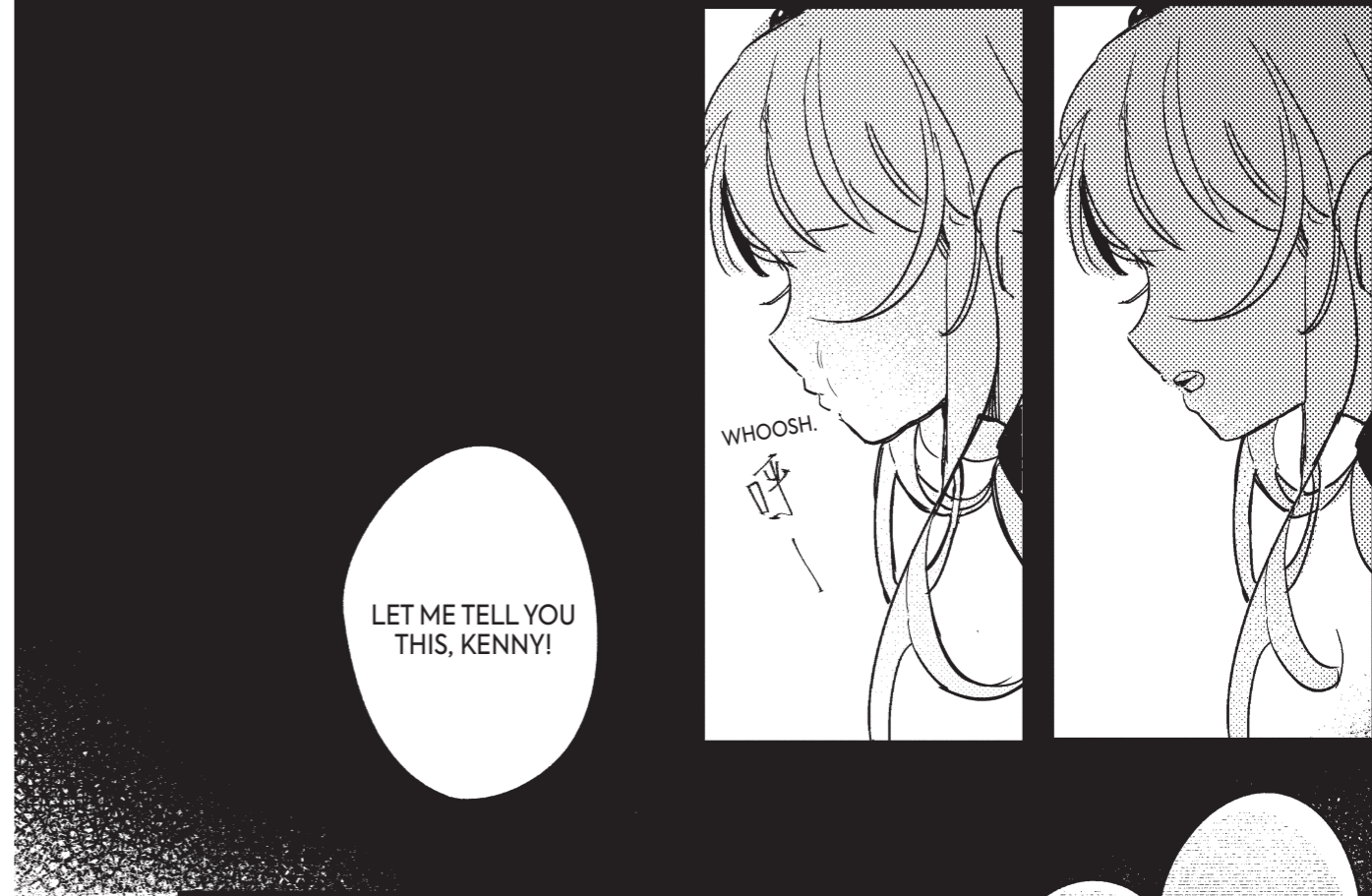
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HAPPY  
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TO YOU!





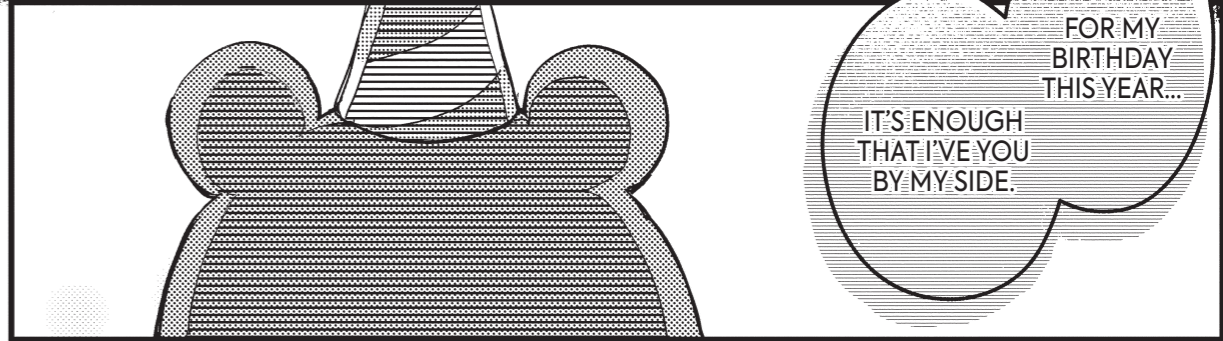
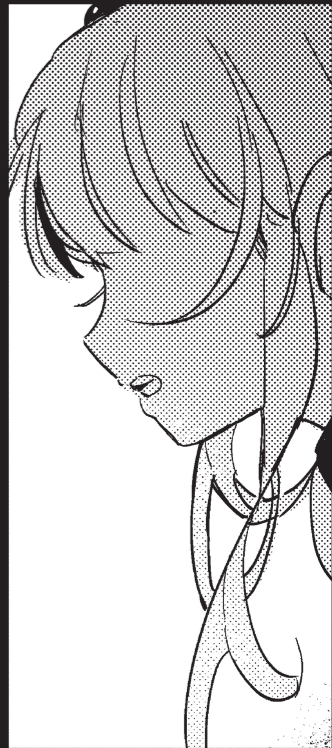
I'M JUST  
A PLUSHIE.



LET ME TELL YOU  
THIS, KENNY!



WHOOSH.



FOR MY BIRTHDAY  
THIS YEAR...  
IT'S ENOUGH  
THAT I'VE YOU  
BY MY SIDE.



I CAN'T  
SING YOU  
A BIRTHDAY  
SONG...

I CAN'T  
TALK, CAN'T  
WALK...

COME EAT  
THE CAKE!

BUT  
TUNG-  
TUNG...