

## Short Bio:

Jane Irwin is the creator of *Vögelein*, an independent comic book published through her company, Fiery Studios. In between her full-time internet job and her artwork, she looks for any excuse to play or listen to Irish music. Please visit <http://www.vogelein.com> for more information on Jane and her work.

## Long Bio:

Jane Irwin grew up on a farm between Chelsea and Grass Lake. Storytelling had a prominent place in her childhood; her grandfather would often tell stories and jokes, play the organ, and sing Civil War era songs he'd learned from his own grandfather.

High school brought with it an addiction to comics, mostly of the caped-crusader variety, but haunting the comics store eventually led to the discovery of revolutionary comics such as Alan Moore's *Watchmen* and Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer-winning *Maus*, which sparked her interest in using Sequential Art to tell more sophisticated stories.

While majoring in Art and Literature at Eastern Michigan University, Jane discovered a new wave of comics -- books such as Neil Gaiman's *Sandman* and Charles Vess' *Ballads and Sagas* told faerie tales and ancient myths and legends in a new light, accompanied by beautiful drawings on a level with revered children's illustrators such as Arthur Rackham and NC Wyeth. As soon as she found them, Jane knew that she needed to write and tell the same sort of stories -- the perfect match of literature and illustration. Out of this came *Vögelein*.

*Vögelein* is the story of a clockwork faerie come to life. She was completed and first wound in 1671, though it took her creator, Heinrich Uhrmacher, over thirty years to finish crafting her. She remains "alive" as long as she is wound each day, and remembers everything she has ever seen or heard as long as she doesn't wind down. If she does, she begins to lose her memories, starting with the most recent, and continuing to her earliest recollections -- the longer she remains stopped, the more she loses. The story opens with the death of *Vögelein*'s Guardian, Jakob. Suddenly alone for the first time in fifty years, she must find someone to trust before she winds down.

Jane currently lives in her adopted home of Ann Arbor, where she can often be found in comic shops or playing Irish music in pubs. Please visit <http://www.vogelein.com> for more information on Jane and her work.