ADVANCE PRAISE FOR TRANSCEndENTAL

"James Gunn, after a long, stellar career in science fiction, is a master of the narrative art—as he shows in this Chaucerian pilgrimage through the galactic future."
—Robert Sheehan, bestselling author of Lord Valentine’s Castle

"Jim Gunn doesn’t publish a new novel very often, but when he does it’s a whopper. Transcendental is his best yet, and in it he demonstrates his possession of one of the most finely developed skills at world-building (and at aliens-creating to populate those worlds) in science fiction today. Read it!"
—Frederik Pohl, bestselling author of Gateway

"Reads more like a collaboration between Heinlein and Asimov. The concept is pure, classic science fiction."
—New York Times Book Review on Star Bridge

"Its characters, at least the protagonists, are drawn with psychological depth. The charm and vividness of Gunn’s prose, plus his deft hand at keeping his plot moving, will keep readers on board through the end. The recent saga of Occupy Wall Street and the other Occupy movements around the country makes many of the events and actors of Kampus feel very current."
—Fantastical Andrew Fox

"One of the very best portrayals of contact with extraterrestrial intelligence ever written."
—Carl Sagan on The Listeners

JAMES GUNN
is the Hugo Award–winning science fiction author of many novels, including The Joy Makers, The Immortals, and The Listeners, and the coauthor, with Jack Williamson, of the classic epic SF novel Star Bridge. Founder of the Center for the Study of Science Fiction and a professor emeritus at the University of Kansas, he lives in Lawrence, Kansas.

JAMES GUNN

After long wars between Earth and the many other civilizations throughout the galaxy, a hard-won peace prevails, but the psychic scars of warfare remain. A new religious movement has emerged, and a starship is carrying beings of many species from diverse worlds on a pilgrimage to the galactic edge. The passengers are journeying toward the far reaches of space—toward what they term “transcendence.”

On this ship of pilgrims, Riley, a bitter, cynical war vet, is on a different sort of quest. Mysterious players in the interstellar power game have sent him on this voyage to investigate the passengers, and in particular, to identify a mysterious prophet whose seemingly benign message could mask a threat to the tenuous peace. While their ship speeds ever deeper toward the unknown, one passenger after another falls prey to foul play, making it clear that some of the ship's passengers are not the spiritual seekers they claim to be.

Amidst the violence and betrayal, a number of those on the starship, like the pilgrims in Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, share their unique stories. As tensions rise, Riley realizes that the ship is becoming less like a pilgrimage and more like a ship of fools. Isolated by the demands of his mission and surrounded by aliens who are either hostile or unfathomable, he considers trusting Asha, the only other human passenger. But Asha has her own secrets, and they could be the key to Riley’s personal salvation. But if he’s wrong about her, it could mean the end of his mission . . . and the pilgrims’ transcendental quest.

"Jim Gunn doesn’t publish a new novel very often, but when he does, it’s a whopper. Transcendental is his best yet!"—Frederick Pohl, bestselling author of Gateway