

# Spoke Too Soon // Brooke Lunderville from "A Momentary Taste of Being" - James Tiptree Jr., 1975

Our colony fleet has exhausted our metals                   Am F Am E  
We can try to escape our doomed world but just once       Am F Am E  
So the question is now: where in space can we send her?   Am F C Am  
So with men of all nations we've set out to hunt           Am Em E Am

We fly blind and desperate, earth's last exploration       F Am  
And earth's only fleet waits for our signal call           F Am E  
Green - come rejoicing, Gold: with trepidation           F Am  
And Red - do not follow, don't follow at all           Am E Am  
But to signal across all that terrible distance           F Am  
Carries an equally terrible price                       F Am E  
Choose wisely, O Captain, what signal to send them       F Am  
Choose wisely, O Captain, for we can't signal twice       Am E Am

We found a new planet, with sweet air and water           Am F Am E  
Plants we can eat and these quaint coloured lights       Am F Am E  
Quarantine surely is just a formality                   Am F C Am  
But the captain won't signal - says something's not right   Am Em E Am

But our crew carries spies who have hidden agendas       Am F Am E  
Government orders and loyalties torn                   Am F Am E  
A mutinous band sends the green signal early           Am F C Am  
Now it's all gone wrong and we're too late to warn       Am Em E Am

chorus

For the planet's queer lights were the aliens' vector       Am F Am E  
To infect us, implant us with their spectral brood       Am F Am E  
The crew one by one lose their wits, then their bodies   Am F C Am  
It seems I'll be last - I'm in no cheerful mood           Am Em E Am

Now the captain has found me, his mind almost shattered   Am F Am E  
To utter his last before he too is dead               Am F Am E  
As he grips me a ghostly glow oozes around him       Am F C Am  
"The signal we sent, O it should have been red.       Am Em E Am  
Yes, the signal it should have been red."               Am E Am

chorus

And the fleet now will follow... but we can't signal twice. Am E Am