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**To Keep the Memory of the Past Alive: A Theoretical
Approach to Novels of Black Women Writers**

The Great Escape

*Fifteen million
Dead souls
Alive*

*Never thought
They would
Survive*

*Come back again
To clean the stain
Left behind*

*Come back again
To heal the strain
In your mind*

*Go forward again
And you will find
Fifteen million*

*You'll see those slaves
Are not in their graves*

*Sista Roots*¹

Rhonda Cobham and Merle Collins, eds., *Watchers and Seekers*, London, The Women's Press, 1987.