

Baghe: The Keeper

The story starts with a prologue from a lady character, '700 + rape cases are reported every year in Nepal but not even half of the total cases are reported. People are worried about their dignity, their image, their status, and their name which is why thousands of cases go unnoticed and the culprit walks free without any fear. You can be that ray of hope who keeps a watchful eye on those sinners and injects that fear into them.

A girl is abducted late in the night from the streets of Thankot by 3 masked men. The men attempt to rape on girl, but she is saved by an unknown person who kills 3 masked men with a sword. The unknown person is later revealed to be Baghe.

Bibek is a Superintendent of Nepal police working in Kathmandu and has a 23-year-old daughter named Asha who is a new-grad lawyer. Asha recently came back from a trip with her friends to Nuwakot and ever since, she has been acting strange as if she is going through some kind of depression and locked herself in her room most of the time. Bibek ignores it as he believes, she is just going through adolescent problems, and he has bigger issues to deal with. He gets informed about the murder that happened on Thankot last night as the police find 3 dead bodies and a cryptic message attached with it that says, 'The Keeper is here to keep a watchful eye'. Bibek starts investigating the case.

Baghe has recently moved to the capital city and has opened up a garage in the streets of Bhaktapur. Baghe was accompanied by a pregnant woman Rakshya whose identity and relation to Baghe are unknown to us yet. They share a warm caring relationship but there is nothing romantic between them. Baghe acts as a vigilante of the town, especially at night, and actively follows news and media. Baghe starts killing the rape-accused culprits and slowly after a few kills, he starts trending on the Internet and is hailed as a hero with the media name 'The Keeper.' He slowly starts building support as some city youth join him and develop an app where the victim can contact Baghe and report the crime themselves without worrying about their identity being shared.

The police organizations are agitated with the people having more trust in the criminal than the police and are working relentlessly to find the criminal. Bibek hatches an elaborate plan to trap Baghe by reporting a false crime and Baghe is captured. Soon after, Baghe's image is revealed in the media and his backstory comes to light through social media. He is accused of killing his brother and having an illicit relationship with his brother's wife Rakshya.

Multiple cases are filed against Baghe as Rakshya struggles to find a lawyer to defend the case and finally, Asha comes front fighting for her first case defending Baghe. Bibek is fumed as he finds out that Asha is the lawyer defending Baghe as he angrily questions her morality to which Asha reveals the past story of Baghe/Deepak.

Flashback

Baghe/ Deepak grew up in a violent household where his mother was constantly tortured and was a victim of marital rape. Deepak is 12 when his mother gives birth to his small brother and dies during the process.

He plans to kill his father and also builds a sharp sword fixing a rusted one that was in his home from his ancestors. He tries to kill him but stops after thinking about his small brother being alone after he is sent to prison.

Deepak buries the sword (khukuri) in the forest and helplessly stays with his father and starts raising his brother Rupak while focusing on his studies as well. He aspired to be an Agriculture graduate and wants to work in his own country utilizing the latest means of agriculture. He also believed that if he studied, his brother would have a chance for a better life. Due to the poor financial condition of the family, he moves to India leaving his 11-year-old brother behind for further studies while working hard casual jobs.

After 8 years of hard work and saving some money for advanced Agriculture tools, Deepak comes back on the occasion of his brother's wedding. The wedding is done well and after a few months, the father dies as well. Rupak after his father's death starts drinking and turns more like his father. Rupak showed the same signs as his father did and started torturing Rakshya and abusing her. Deepak who is working to bring a change in his village by maximizing the potential of the farms is well respected by the villages now, but he is bothered by his brother's behavior towards Rakshya and confronts him. Rupak dismisses Deepak and asks him to stay out of his business. Deepak tries to ignore it multiple times and stays quiet about the situation but also starts taking care of Rakshya as a brother. Rupak notices this warmth and is bothered about it as he creates a huge scene one day accusing Deepak of having illicit relations with his wife. Soon after, Deepak starts getting ridiculed by the same people who respected him yesterday.

One night, Deepak is alone at the Village Park, lost in his thoughts when he hears some screams from the forest. He follows the scream to find a girl being raped by Rupak and his friend. The girl is Asha who is on her vacation in Nuwakot. Deepak begs Rupak to back off and tries to convince him calmly but Rupak smashes Deepak with a stone and Deepak falls flat on the floor with a dizzy head. He hears the scream of Asha as it reminds him of his mother and Rakshya. He moved his hands around as it was the same place where Deepak buried the sword when he was a kid. He takes the sword out and cuts both of the boy's throats killing them instantly. Deepak is distraught after killing his brother and Asha is shocked and grateful. She quickly asks Deepak to run away from the village and meet her in Kathmandu where she will help him flee the country.

He takes up the sword and walks back home where Rakshya sees Deepak covered in blood with tears in his eyes. Rakshya immediately realizes that he killed Rupak and to Deepak's surprise, she quickly runs to the kitchen and brings out a bucket of water to wash the blood of Deepak. She packs her bags and is ready to leave with Deepak. Deepak is hesitant to take her with him as he is a criminal on the run and the police might be looking for him, but Rakshya denies staying and tells him that she is pregnant, and her kid needs a Mama (Uncle).

Deepak and Rakshya travel overnight to Kathmandu where on the way to Thankot at night, they see Nisha being raped. Rakshya asks Deepak to help the girl as she watches Deepak with a hopeful eye as she convinces Deepak to be the savior and hope for the women who are victims of rape but has kept quiet fearing society which is why Deepak had started his night endeavor as he is adamant of eradicating rape from the society.

Present

Bibek is moved listening to the backstory of Baghe but can't neglect his duty as he continues working against Baghe. Baghe is at the prison when he hears about another rape case committed by an influential person Abhiram to a 12-year-old minor.

His blood rages as he escapes the prison with the help of some police officers and other prisoners who believe Baghe can bring a change. He is chased by the cops for a long as Bibek finally manages to catch up to him. They engage in a long brutal fight and at the end Bibek points the gun at Baghe. Bibek is in a dilemma if he should kill the criminal or let him go as Baghe is the reason, his daughter was alive.

Bibek hesitantly lets Baghe run as he knows the influential criminal will walk free soon but while Baghe is walking away, Bibek promises Baghe that he will never stop hunting him to which Baghe responds by saying, he will surrender himself if the accused is given the right punishment.

On the other side, Asha who has lost all hope in the case after Baghe ran from the prison manages to convince an aspiring filmmaker to make a documentary on Baghe, and his story is uploaded on YouTube. The documentary film ended with a message from Baghe that said, 'I will always be standing behind all of those victims.' The video gets viral as people start sympathizing with Baghe and also start seeing him as a hope which encourages all the rape victims from the country to come forward and file their cases.

Baghe goes to kill Abhiram and in a long final fight sequence, he manages to kill him.

The very next day, thousands of cases are reported, and the police department works relentlessly to catch the culprits as most of them surrender themselves fearing Baghe.

The next month Baghe surrenders and is presented at court and is sentenced to lifetime imprisonment. Baghe is arrested and taken out of court as he is greeted by millions of people coming out to support him.

The movie ends with a quote from Amit Abraham, 'Rape is a more heinous crime than murder since the rape victim dies throughout the period she lives.'

कहानी हो एक रक्षकको

सुनाउनु छ सबैलाई

बस्छ भब्य त्यो जंगलमा

असुरक्षित, अँधेरो

कलिको राज यो राज्यमा

देवीको आराधना गर्दै

बदल्दै छ यो जंगल उसले

रक्षक अनि उही भक्षक हो।

The All-mighty keeper, A descendant of the god

Fighting the evil to end of it all.

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