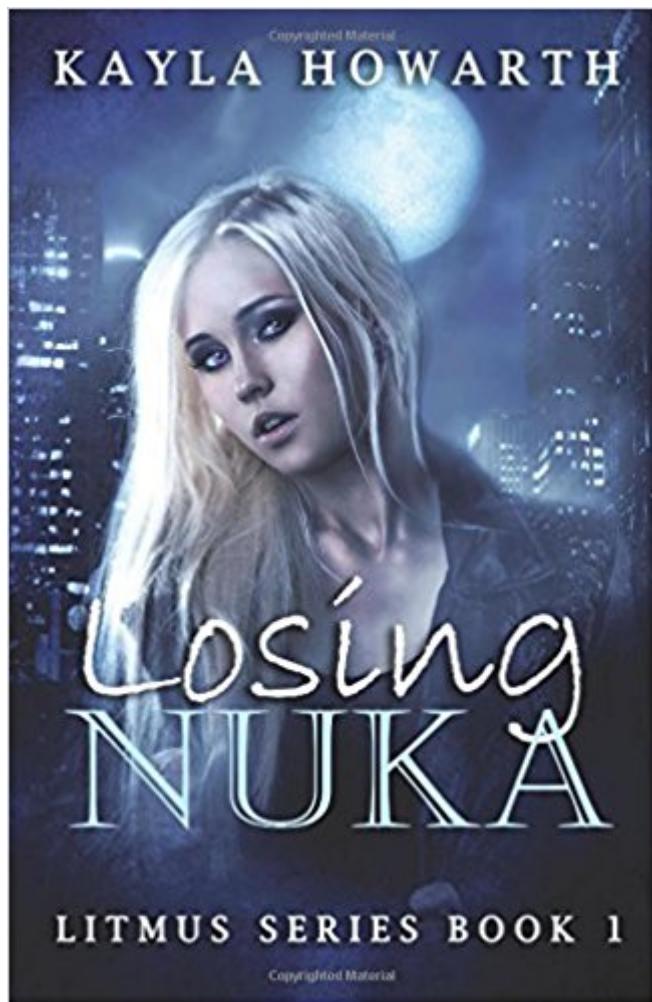


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# Losing Nuka (Litmus) (Volume 1)



## **Synopsis**

\*\*\* WINNER OF THE 2016 KINDLE BOOK AWARDS YA CATEGORY \*\*\*An infamous underground fight club for magically-gifted Defectives, Litmus is where you find out what you're made of. That's exactly what twenty-one-year-old Nuka James wants most; to discover who she really is. Called the "walking microwave" by her friends, Nuka is Defective and has the ability to manipulate heat. Raised by adoptive parents, she has spent the last three years searching for her birth mother. She finds more than she expected when her search leads her to Litmus, and she discovers that her mother is the leader of one of five Litmus fighting teams. Now Nuka must fight - literally - to win her mother's affection. As a Litmus fighter, Nuka stands to win money, fame, glory ... maybe even love. If she can survive to enjoy it.\*\*\*Litmus is a spin-off of The Institute Series. While it is set in the same world, and characters from The Institute make appearances, it can be read as a separate, stand-alone series. Losing Nuka is a YA/NA crossover, suitable for people fifteen years and older.

## **Book Information**

Series: Litmus (Book 1)

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## **Customer Reviews**

This was a great first book in this spin-off series. I loved the Institute books and wasn't really sure whether the spin-off would be as good. I'm glad it was excellent! Nuka finds herself trapped in a dark underworld trying to find her birth mother - she certainly gets more than she bargained for! I found myself irritated by Nuka's lack of perspective on the family that raised her, but was really glad

she found her biological sister and some perspective as the book went on. The explosive ending made me quickly move on to William's story. Every book in both series was so worthwhile.

If you haven't read Kayla Howarth The Institute Series you definitely should. The Litmus Series is a spinoff from the Institute. This book is from Nukas POV and at first she comes across as a bratty teenager but she grows a lot throughout the book. She wants to find her biological mother and in the process she gets caught up in an underground fight club. I loved this book and can't wait to start reading Protecting William.

Excellent, gritty story about just how messed up a society can get. I loved every minute of it. For all the gritty backdrop, this is a coming of age story. It just happens to be a coming of age story with underground superhuman fighting in a damaged, but healing world. Nuka leaves her past behind to find out more about her true self. What she finds is shocking even to her. Losing Nuka is book one of a three book series and, not gonna lie here, it ends on a bit of a cliffhanger. Fortunately, the remaining books in the series are available now (Howarth must type like the wind), so you won't get stuck waiting for the next book to read.

I just had the distinct pleasure of finishing the first book in the Litmus Series, "Losing Nuka" by Kayla Howarth. Personally, I think you should drop everything and read this book. Maybe call in sick tomorrow, download it to your e-reader and find a quiet place to sit and read. Overall, it was a great adventure! What I Loved! I believe that if you want to write a great book, you need to really write great characters. Ms. Howarth has done that masterfully in this book. I really fell in love with the central character, Nuka. It made me genuinely care for her. However, it really doesn't stop there. She also made me fall in love with her sister, Sasha, and her body guard, turned boyfriend, Brett. There are other characters in the story, but these are the ones I really fell in love with. When something happens to one of them, your heart races in agony because you hate to see anything happen to them. It's genuinely good writing. I love it when the writing style is clean. Kayla Howarth writes in an easy to understand, easy to follow, way. I never had to backtrack to find out what she was talking about and that is the mark of a truly great author. It's logical and chronological. When there is a flashback of any type, she makes sure to tell the story through one of the characters. It really makes them come alive on the page. More importantly, it makes them seem real and that can be a challenge for even the most experienced authors. Ms. Howarth also does a terrific job building a world for her characters to live

in. While they are still the main focus, it didn't seem necessary forced on them. The way they interacted with their environment seemed natural. Another plus is that the story does not over indulge on details where they are not necessary. She allows the characters to carry the story, not the world around them. This story is really about a young woman and her fight for what's right. Doesn't let the fact that the story line is hung, at least partially, on her participation in an underground fight club, called Litmus, be a barrier to reading her book. Sports stories always come across as jargon-filled to me, but Ms. Howarth did an excellent job avoiding that trap. Even those who really don't care for sports centered stories will enjoy this. The characters carry the story and not the world they function in. Overall, I gave this a solid five stars because I thoroughly enjoyed it. It grabbed me by the nose and pulled me along through the story at a good pace. The story was well written, perfectly edited, and it made me pine for more. Kudos to Kayla Howarth.

I gotta be honest, I went into *Losing Nuka* with HIGH expectations. Coming off of reading the amazing, incredible *Institute* series, and knowing full well that the hot-off-the-assembly-line *Litmus* series took place in the same universe as *The Institute*, with many of the same wonderful and snarky characters, I expected to be dazzled from Page One. What I did NOT expect was that this book would be so very different in tone and in plot. In the previous trilogy, there was something fundamentally, categorically wrong with society, in that people with superpowers (Defectives) were being persecuted, imprisoned or forced to live as outcasts. The fate of the world was at stake for our heroes. Now, Defectives (renamed Immunes because... well, because it sounds less prejudicial, I guess) are a part of society, and the plot deals exclusively with the life of young Nuka, who is now eighteen and wants to track down her birth mother, who gave her up to *The Institute* when she was a baby. Soon, she finds herself involved in an underground version of MMA where Immunes do battle in a futuristic version of *Fight Club*, known as *Litmus*. (Rule One: Do NOT talk about *Litmus*.) I will admit, at first I did not like Nuka, and the way she so blithely cast aside her loving adoptive family to pursue her quest for identity. But she grows a lot over the course of the story, and she grew on me, especially because of the relationships she has with her snarky sister Sasha and the hunky Brett. And while the story itself didn't have nearly as much tension or danger as any of the *Institute* books, the story did get better as it progressed, and the ending was just as awesome as I've come to expect from Kayla Howarth. Plus, it segued very nicely into the second book in the series, which I will be devouring with gusto as soon as it's released. It's truly easy to see why this author is, very slowly, taking over the world. Soon, we will all be her humble minions.

Good book, kept moving. Just a nice easy read and I felt I got to know Nuka. Missed not hearing much from Allira ;)

Just when I thought it couldn't get any better, we jump into the action packed world of Nuka! I was left feeling both satisfied and needy all the same time! I can't get enough Brett in my life!

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