The End of Mr Y by Scarlett Thomas

When Ariel Manto uncovers a copy of The End of Mr. Y in a second-hand bookshop, she can't believe her eyes. She knows enough about its author, the eccentric Victorian scientist Thomas Lumas, to realize that copies are exceptionally rare. And, according to legend cursed. With Mr. Y under her arm, Ariel finds herself thrust into a thrilling adventure of love, sex, death and time-travel. Scarlett Thomas brings us another fast-paced mix of popular culture, love, mystery, and adventure.