

[*4] I saw this word somewhere online and decided to Google it, a search that took me on a very charming ride through an assortment of current slang terms I was unfamiliar with. I write in *waking up* about a similar experience maybe 10 years ago when a brilliant student I was teaching and getting to know introduced me to some of the lingo becoming current then. I remember “woke” and “lit” specifically, both of which sounded like something I wanted more not less of. The former term has since been so desecrated by far-right ideologues to become, oddly for me, more a red badge of courage than a cool moniker. I immediately felt the same way about “delulu,” short for delusional, which means most practically “out of touch” in a negative way. But delulu sounds to me like a state of mind that might also be fun, playful. So I’m coopting it to describe the many kinds of loopy inner moods I so enjoy experiencing; even as I use it to name the absurdly stupid narratives that waylay those who indulge in conspiratorial or cultish “stories,” my primary theme here. Some of the other words I liked were bussin’ (really good), drip (sophisticated), cray (wild, out of control, as in crazy), and touch grass (get a grip.) I’d like to live in a world where drip was bussin’ and cray was sometimes the best way to touch grass and go delulu (in my good way.)