





Aquiletta



In 1975, I managed to find a summer sublet very cheaply three blocks from the bike shop right on the lake. For a blissful summer I could walk out the patio doors onto the pier and wake to the crew team's beautiful crossing at dawn.

A recent grad offered me her 1970 Bianchi Aquiletta for \$25 and on a lark I bought it. It was white with a Torpedo 3speed and a Thun crankset- the kind with the right crank and spindle all one piece and cups pressed into the frame facing out like an Ashtabula only smaller. A torn and waterlogged white vinyl saddle matched the ratty white paint and torn, twisted cables. Three speed gearboxes are horrendous when the cable's kinked and this one had been wrapped around the front end once or twice.