The *Silvae* of Statius consist of 32 poems written for specific occasions in the life of the Roman elite. In spite of obvious differences between occasional poetry and epic (‘low’ – ‘high’, present – past, real – fictional, laudatory – narrative), the *Silvae* do contain several elements taken from epic poetry. In a discussion of two poems (1.4 and 3.4) it is argued that in his *Silvae* Statius imitates so-called ‘typical scenes’ from epic poetry, and that in doing so he generally combines two or more Latin epic examples, in the same manner as in his epic *Thebaid*. Recognition of these allusions, and appreciation of the resulting intertextual fabric affects the interpretation of the poems.